

Government's 'final offer' to strikers in Polaris dispute

A "final offer" was made by the Government last night to leaders of industrial civil servants claim for higher pay has dis- Britain's Polaris submarine Leaders of the union team involved in London talks conceded that the latest offer, which comes close to workers' demands, was the best that could be achieved. But a decision on the offer was left to shop floor workers.

Decision left to rank and file

It seems likely that the rank and file, rather than shake the atmosphere of harmonious Government-union links in the period leading up to an election, will be urged to accept the new offer.

There is virtually no possibility of the dispute being made official, and the workers may decide to accept the offer and realize that the Government is not going to break its own Phase Three policy. The deal was due for settlement on July 1.

The new offer tentatively promises talks on "unjustified differences between conditions of service" on industrial and non-industrial civil servants.

The vital question of whether non-industrial civil servants will get their 1979 pay rise kept in line with the going rate in private industry, through the traditional pay research machinery seems to have been at least partially settled.

The research will continue for the 1979 deal but the unions are in no doubt that its outcome, which could point to rises of up to 20 per cent, to keep parity with the private sector, will be subsumed by the Phase Four 5 per cent pay rise limit.

The unions seem prepared, however, to cross that bridge when they come to it as they feel that there is almost certain to be an election in the meantime.

At the Faslane naval base on the Clyde pickets were withdrawn last night as "an act of good faith" until a mass meeting is held outside the dock gates on Monday morning to consider yesterday's peace offer.

The Government's latest offer came after prolonged talks in London between a union team led by Mr Peter Adams and government officials led by Lord Peart, Minister responsible for the Civil Service Department.

Mr Adams said it was up to union members in dispute, including the workers at the Polaris bases, whether to accept the new terms. He was making no recommendation.

The 12 unions involved in the negotiations represent 183,000 industrial civil servants.

Mr Adams, chairman of the Industrial Civil Servants joint coordinating committee representing the 12 unions involved in yesterday's talks, said the final offer represents the maximum that can be achieved by negotiation.

The committee was not making any recommendation. "We have merely undertaken to put it to the workers, but we are hopeful that we can find some basis for settlement."

The offer would be relayed over the weekend to the industrial civil servants concerned, but Mr Adams said it could be the end of the month before the Government would know whether it had been accepted.

Our Glasgow Correspondent writes: At Faslane last night: Four members of the joint shop stewards committee were called from the picket lines to meet with the new offer. Mr Adams, Commodore Neil MacEachern, chief naval officer for the Clyde. He said he had been asked by the Ministry of Defence to put the terms of the offer to representatives of the joint shop stewards committee.

Mr Thomas Kilian, secretary of the committee, who took part in the Faslane talks declined to discuss the offer.



Competitors in the TI Raleigh Tour of Britain bicycle race streaming through Thaxted, Essex. The race finishes today (Report, page 11).

Mr Varley calls in Chrysler unions for talks on takeover

By Clifford Webb

Mr Eric Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, last night invited the leaders of all unions with members employed in Chrysler UK factories to meet him on Monday to hear the Government's initial reaction to the proposed £200m sale of Chrysler's European vehicle operations to Peugeot-Citroën.

Mr Varley, who was alerted to the move only on Monday, will also make clear that despite widespread fears about jobs the Government has no intention of being rushed into an early decision.

Under the terms of the £162m rescue package agreed with Chrysler Corporation two and a half years ago the approval of the British Government is necessary for that part of the deal affecting Chrysler UK.

Senior officials from the Departments of Industry and Employment, the Treasury and the Scottish Office will be meeting Peugeot-Citroën executives next week. It is expected that the talks will take place in London and take place in London and Paris.

The French company has said it is ready to accept Chrysler's full responsibilities in relation to its agreement with the British Government. However, the British team will want this point out in great detail before advising ministers.

If approval in principle is given by the Government a new agreement will still have to be negotiated with the French. The existing agreement with Chrysler is legally binding and contains a number of trigger provisions. Each could lead to court action against Chrysler to enforce repayment of £30m in government loans. The Government could also withdraw its

guarantee to banks covering a further £35m lent to Chrysler. The proposed sale is already in breach of the agreement which requires government approval for the disposal of more than 20 per cent of Chrysler's equity.

Shop stewards at Chrysler plants in the Midlands and Scotland held meetings yesterday. They decided to call an emergency meeting of the combine shop stewards body next week and urged national union leaders to press for a meeting with Peugeot-Citroën.

Workers at the Stoke, Coventry engine plant are particularly concerned about the future of their long standing export contract with Iran. The Chrysler-Höner is produced in Iran with bodywork made locally and fitted with engines and transmissions manufactured at Stoke.

Last November Peugeot signed an agreement with Iran National, the company assembling Hunters which are sold locally as Peugeot 304s, to build a new factory to be built in Iran to produce a version of the Peugeot 304.

At the time it was reported that Chrysler's contract was safe but it had become necessary to be second manufactured to be brought in because Chrysler was unable to meet a huge increase in demand.

Midland employees fear that the valuable Iranian business will be switched to French factories.

Moderately glorious '12th' despite grouses

By Alan Hamilton

The Twelfth will be moderately glorious this year, in spite of a battery of hardships affecting both sportsmen and their targets, the grouse-shooting fraternity reports.

At dawn this morning the most peculiarly British of field sports emerged from its close season having weathered a hard winter, a miserable spring, outbreaks of sheep tick, negotiations in Brussels on bird protection, inflation, and the Labour Party's national executive. Prospects, for the shooters if not the birds, are said to be reasonable in most areas.

A poll of gamekeepers, notoriously cautious forecasters, by the British Field Sports Society in Scotland two days ago indicated that prospects for a good bag are considered favourable everywhere south of the Forth, moderate in the northern Highlands, but patchy in the central Highlands and in Morayshire, where sheep tick is prevalent among the birds this year.

Despite the generally bad winter and spring, grouse on the high moors suffered no more severe weather than usual. The grouse is a hardy bird, and this year's breeding does not appear to have been seriously affected. But sheep ticks which suck the blood of the birds, seem more prevalent than in previous years, although the gamekeepers say that their incidence is local.

The sportsmen have not fared as well as the birds and feel they have had some narrow escapes recently.

A blast of grapeshot from Transport House missed them narrowly when the policy-making national executive made threatening noises about banning all "blood" sports but decided to restrict its disapproval to hunting for the time being.

Warning noises are also coming from Brussels, where European environment ministers have been drafting bird protection laws which will probably include the black grouse and certain wildfowl, although not the common red grouse, which survives only in the British Isles.

But the greatest danger facing sportsmen as they stride over the moors is money. Fewer and fewer British gunmen can afford the sport, and it is estimated that nearly three-quarters of all grouse and pheasant shooting and deer stalking is now run by overseas visitors, mainly from the United States, France, Germany and Italy.

Agents for the main sporting estates report a slight reduction in demand for shoots this year, even among the normally wealthy Continentals.

Landlords of sporting estates calculate that this year it is costing between £12 and £17 a brace of grouse to lay on a shoot, because of the rising cost of wages for keepers and beaters, and a rating revaluation for grouse moors, now £4 a brace. Sportsmen are paying between £30 and £200 a gun a day.

For those who actually enjoy eating grouse, chefs from two London and two Scottish hotels planned to be out on the moors above Killin, Perthshire, early this morning to bag their own birds and whisk them back to their kitchens in time for dinner.

Twenty unions want to recruit in Forces

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

Twenty unions in the Civil Service have urged the Government that they are the "appropriate" bodies to represent the 320,000 members of the Armed Forces.

The move is aimed at preventing other unions making headway in such a potentially lucrative area for trade union recruitment. Already the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) has placed an advertisement in *Soldier* magazine inviting senior officers to join.

A joint letter from the 12 industrial and eight non-industrial unions in the Civil Service to Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said: "We do not see the need for the intrusion of any trade union not recognized as appropriate by Crown employment into this area of potential trade union organization."

Servicemen and women are allowed to join unions and attend branch meetings so long as it does not bring them into conflict with the requirements of military discipline. They are not allowed to strike.

Hardly any belong to unions, however, and the Ministry of Defence said last night that it was not aware of internal pressures for union representation.

But Craftsmen were encouraged to join a union before returning civilian life. The Civil Service unions told Mr Mulley that they expected to be consulted if there was any question of trade union recognition for any body, whether recognized as representing Crown employees or otherwise.

It was signed by Mr Frank Cottam, secretary of the trade union side of the joint coordinating committee for industrial civil servants, and Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the staff side of the Civil Service National Whistley Council.

The unions believe that, as there are 20 of them, the interests of the state would be more secure than if only a few unions recruited among the Armed Services.

Mr Stanley Davidson, assistant secretary of ASTMS, said last night that the union was interested in recruiting NCOs and senior officers. He thought the union would "no doubt get together" to discuss the matter with the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which has expressed an interest in similar ranks.

He added: "There is room for plenty of people who are prepared to put the work into organizing people into unions."

Continued on page 2, col 5

10 years' jail for former British Leyland executive

Barton, aged 34, the British Leyland financial director, was jailed at the Criminal Court yesterday for 10 years for forging a "slush fund" letter to his disbursement of £5,000 from the Daily

found guilty of five what became known as "slush fund" cases. Fama, aged 32, was charged after the publication of a report "slush fund" to pay overseas to gain confidence.

King-Hamilton, QC, said Barton could appear at the trial what he thought of at Leyland. But the judge said he would have been to take another job and to light through his iron's willingness to it to the press for pounds cast doubt on the sincerity motives. The judge

added: "Your conduct has been made worse in my view by the fact that you alleged those letters had been given to you by others in British Leyland, casting a baseless suspicion on fellow employees."

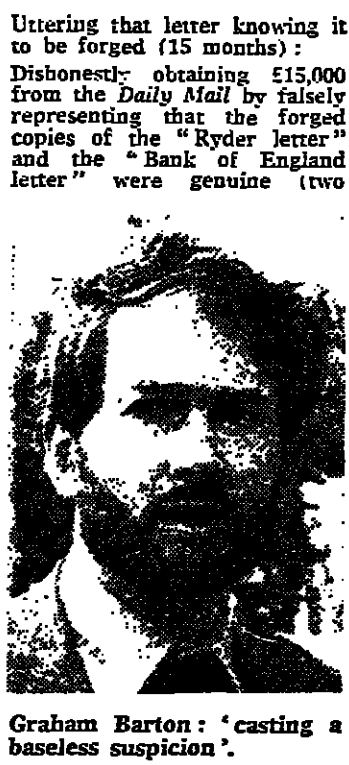
"By your conduct you put a large number of people in enormous trouble and cost great public expense and time. The evidence could hardly have been stronger. It is a thousand pities you did not have the courage and good sense to plead guilty."

The charges on which Mr Barton of Lincoln, Gardens, Hounslow, London, was found guilty and the sentences on each were:

Forging a document purporting to be a copy of a letter from Lord Ryder of Eborac, former chairman of the National Enterprise Board, to Mr Alex Park, former chief executive of British Leyland (15 months);

Uttering that letter knowing it to be forged (15 months);

Forging a document purporting to be a copy of a letter from the Bank of England to the treasury manager of British Leyland (15 months);



Graham Barton: 'casting a baseless suspicion'.

years). The sentences are to run concurrently.

Mrs Barton was discharged after being acquitted of forging the copy of the "Ryder letter" uttering the forged letter with intent to defraud and obtaining £15,000 from the Daily Mail.

The judge referred to the phrase "nodded through" which appeared in the so-called "Ryder letter". There had been no evidence to support the suggestion that the Government had "nodded through" arrangements for special payments, he said.

Mr Barton said from the dock before being sentenced: "My motives were not basically financial and what happened, in fact, was a state of affairs put in train by me. They got out of control and the events which subsequently took place were not planned. The whole operation was not conceived as a financial fraud."

"No bribery web": In a statement after the trial, British Leyland said: "In May, 1977, the company firmly denied allegations in a newspaper of a 'worldwide bribery web by Leyland'. The matter has arisen again in the Barton forgery trial which ended today.

"While the trial was in progress the company was unable to comment publicly, nor was it able to reply to allegations in court. BL would now like to make the following observations:

1. It was the company itself that initiated the original inquiries, not the newspaper or Mr Barton.

2. In the last 15 months a number of further investigations were carried out covering more than 1,250,000 accounting transactions in the books of the company. No evidence has been found of any contravention of English law, nor of a "worldwide bribery web". To equate commission payments to bribery is nonsense. Commissions are normal commercial practice.

3. The company endorsed the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) guidelines on international trade, and clearly states its policy on political contributions and commission payments in the annual report for 1977. The necessary internal instructions have been implemented to ensure that this policy is effective."

We wished for a poor man

Aug 11.—Pope Paul died last Sunday, said will, published today, wished to die a poor man. He was buried in the crypt of St. Basilica after a service tomorrow.

thing belonging to me go to the Holy See. He wrote. He signed his name on June 30, 1965, and no additions in September, and July, 1973.

ed his private secretary tribute his personal igs, including books, people dear to him and night will be asked his and his secretary to personal writings from their possession.

ope used to give away ey and gifts presented as soon as he could, o the poor or to the Third World, the Pope said today. —Reuters and

Longer flight delays today

There were few serious delays to flights from Britain yesterday after the resumption of the work-to-rule by French air traffic controllers, but British airports are expecting longer delays today as the effect of the dispute builds up. To help ease the redun of waiting for flights, entertainment for holidaymakers and their children has been arranged at several airports.

Texan group refuses Harland tankers

Two 333,000-ton crude oil tankers, worth £30m each, the largest ships ever built in the United Kingdom, are laid up in Belfast harbour unwanted by their owners, subsidiaries of Coastal States Gas Corporation of Houston, Texas.

'Sunday Times' faces fresh disruption

Continuing unofficial action by members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades threatens further disruption to *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. For a second time the men have rejected a union instruction to work normally on the paper, which lost 230,000 copies in similar circumstances last week.

Poison waste outcry

Shipments from the United States to West Germany of highly poisonous chemical waste for storage in a disused salt mine in Hessen has caused alarm in West Germany. The issue can affect the outcome of *Land* elections in Hessen, increasing the chances of ecologist groups.

Lambeth backs grant

The Lambeth Conference pledged its loyalty to the World Council of Churches after the council announced a grant of £40,000 to the Rhodesian Patriotic Front. The Bishop of Maseru had denounced the grant because the front sought "to establish a government through the barrel of a gun."

China-Japan pact

Japanese and Chinese officials are reported to have completed in Peking the text of a peace and friendship treaty. In Tokyo, Mr Fukuda, the Prime Minister, said: "We can conclude a treaty without altering our position on hegemony, territorial and other problems." Japanese Cabinet approval is awaited.

er soldier dead

ldier was shot dead in derry yesterday after He was wearing plain and sitting in a parked

use the soldier was on at not in uniform, it is that he may have been ber of the Special Air Yesterday's murder the number of army and Defence Regiment this year to 13.

Rare feat for Wells

Allan Wells, of Scotland, won the 200 metres title at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, the first victory by a United Kingdom sprinter in the games since 1938. Tessa Sanderson (javelin) and Roy Mitchell (long jump) were other gold medal winners for England.

Windhoek: United Nations mission to Namibia foundering as South Africa demands an early election

Rhodesia: Popularity and authority of Bishop Muzorewa's leadership to be tested this weekend.

England in command

New Zealand had lost three wickets for 35 runs at the close of play in the second Test at Nottingham. This left them 394 behind England, who made 429 in their first innings.

Home News	2, 3	Church	14	Letters	13	Theatres, etc	6, 7
European News	3	Court	14	Obituary	14	Travel	8
Overseas News	4	Crossword	22	Science	14	25 Years Ago	14
Arts	7	Diary	7	Services	14	Universities	12
Bridge	8	Engagements	14	Sport	20, 21	Weather	12
Business	15-19	Features	5-8	TV & Radio	9-11	Wills	14
Cross	2, 8	Gardening	8				

Martial law imposed in Iranian city

Teheran, Aug 11.—Martial law was declared in the industrial city of Isfahan today after day-long riots and clashes between anti-Government demonstrators and troops. It was the first time a military governor had been put in control of an Iranian city for 25 years.

Measures included the banning of Ramadan religious services.

The Information Ministry said four people had been killed and 66 injured. Eye-witnesses reported mass arrests in the clashes between rioters in riot gear and orthodox Muslims protesting against the Government's liberalization programme.

Rioters, armed with clubs and knives, broke windows and chanted anti-Government slogans. They had gathered in mosques, ostensibly for religious services, then began marching in the streets.

Inhabitants have been ordered to stay in the streets at night and gatherings of more than three people are prohibited. —AP.

Italian police find girl in rabies search

Rome, Aug 11.—The police in Italy today tracked down Karine Jugler, a four-and-a-half-year-old French girl who has been the subject of a desperate search since it was learnt that the dog that bit her on July 31 in northern Italy was rabid.

The family was found in Urbino. Early Italy, and treatment was to begin at once. They have been on a camping holiday, unaware of their daughter's danger.

Radio appeals have been broadcast for the girl to be taken to a doctor.—Agence France-Presse.

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HOME NEWS

Lambeth bishops back church grant to Rhodesia terrorists despite 'explosive issue' warning

From Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent
Canterbury

Undeterred by the unexpected announcement of the World Council of Churches' £40,000 grant to the Patriotic Front in Rhodesia, the bishops at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury yesterday pledged their continued loyalty to the council in enthusiastic terms. The conference urged all member churches of the Anglican communion "to reaffirm their support and strengthen their understanding of this body", which they described as not only the most comprehensive expression of the ecumenical movement but also the chief vehicle of worldwide economic cooperation and service.

Several speakers attempted to dilute the resolution or oppose it altogether, but they did not prevail. The strongest attack on the World Council of Churches came from the Right Rev John Burroughs, Bishop of Mafeking, who proposed that the motion be ignored.

He said it was a surprise that the council had come out in support of the Patriotic Front, as the front already had the blessing of the British and American governments.

"The front is pledged to destroy any possibility of a democratic election in Rhodesia in December this year," he said. "It is also pledged to establish a government in Rhodesia through the barrel of a gun. Any money given by or through the churches should go to help young children who have been abducted from Rhodesia into Zambia."

The Right Rev Maurice Wood, Bishop of Norwich, referred to the grant as "an explosive issue". He wanted the Lambeth Conference to declare that it did not necessarily support any individual action of the council. His amendment was defeated.

Most of the speeches expressed misgivings, particularly about public reaction to

such grants in the west, though the general mood of the Lambeth Conference appeared to be against making any statement criticizing this particular grant.

Instead the resolution as originally drafted had a rider attached to it, offering to the council the Lambeth Conference's own thoughts on war and violence as expressed in a long document drawn up previously.

In particular it asked the council to re-examine our complexity with violence in its many forms and to take with the utmost seriousness the question which the teaching of Jesus places against more violence in human relationships.

Earlier, the conference was told of the resolution adopted by the new Primates Committee, in its first public declaration which protested against the displacement of Africans in South Africa.

The primates said that they gave thanks for those priests who were ministering to the homeless and dispossessed in southern Africa and they deplored the apartheid form of government.

Missions neutral: Two church organizations, which have had missionaries massacred in Rhodesia, yesterday declined to criticize the decision by the World Council of Churches to grant £42,500 to the Patriotic Front, whose guerrillas have been blamed for the killings (a Staff Reporter writes).

The Rev Leslie Wrigglesworth, acting director of the Elin Pentecostal Church's international missions, whose nine missionaries were massacred with four children at Umtali, said: "We maintain our neutral position and do not wish to make any comment." His appointed successor, the Rev David Ayling, of Belfast, said: "We do not comment on political matters."

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such grants in the west, though the general mood of the Lambeth Conference appeared to be against making any statement criticizing this particular grant.

Airports are braced for more delays today

By Staff Reporters

Despite the resumption yesterday of the work-to-rule by French air traffic controllers, there were few serious delays to flights from Britain.

The longest delays reported last night were on flights to Paris, which were leaving up to one hour and a half late. Flights to Switzerland, Greece and Yugoslavia and departures from Scottish airports to Spain and Portugal were up to an hour late. Otherwise, there were no delays.

The route to Spain across the Atlantic, known as the Spanish track, was being used by aircraft equipped with high frequency radios.

Airport officials were surprised at how little disruption the French controllers' action had caused. The Civil Aviation Authority said: "It is inexplicable. Things have gone much more smoothly than we thought."

According to airport authorities in France fewer controllers are fully observing the work-to-rule than two weeks ago when flights from Britain were delayed for up to 36 hours. The unions involved have denied any falling off in support for the action, which is due to last until Wednesday.

British airports are expecting longer delays to flights from France as a cumulative effect of late arrivals and departures. Gatwick, which expects to handle up to 40,000 people a day over the weekend, has installed an extra 2,200 seats and 1,000 cushions for the floor. There will be a play group, a magician, special tele-



Ted Pickles, a Yorkshire clown, entertaining children waiting at Ringway airport.

vision games and colour television sets. Catering facilities at Gatwick have also been improved. During the next two days the airport expects to sell 50,000 rolls and sandwiches, 30,000 steaks, 150,000 cups of tea and coffee, and 35,000 pints and bottles of beer.

At Luton airport Scouts will

help to cope with the expected crush of waiting holidaymakers. The airport, which handles holiday charter flights, is planning for delays of up to 24 hours.

Extra staff and entertainers, including cabaret and performing dogs, have been provided at Manchester and Liverpool airports, which will be handling several thousands

holidaymakers over the weekend.

There is good news about the Laker Skytrain to America. The queue for tickets on the Embankment, London, has now dwindled to fewer than 800, compared with 2,500 last week. Prospective passengers are being promised flights within a day or two of joining the queue.

Further of London dock job advised

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Manpower in London docks will have to be even more than at present, according to the Government.

That was not disclosed by William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, in his speech last week, when he announced the Government's decision to open the upper docks open.

Pressed by speakers to justify the Government's decision, Mr Rodgers said that the docks were in a "mended closure, and his position."

His statement has been welcomed by dockland leaders, Nigel Sparrow, Labor Member, South, who told the Times on Thursday that the docks were in a "mended closure, and his position."

The PLA proposals should be accepted, the loss of about 2,000 jobs would be a "tributable" to the closure of Royal Docks and the loss of 600 jobs to the general manpower and improved working conditions—the most the Government could do.

Price Waterhouse report is unlikely to suggest that 1,400 jobs were lost in the last year of the PLC and the loss of 600 jobs would be a "tributable" to the closure of Royal Docks and the loss of 600 jobs to the general manpower and improved working conditions—the most the Government could do.

The £45m government be directly dependent on achieving the manpower savings, Mr Rodgers said.

Two television and film units agree to merge

By Our Labour Staff
Two big film and television units have agreed after 15 years of negotiation to merge.

The new body will be the Amalgamated Film and Television Unit, a result of a merger between the Association of British Film Makers (ABFM) and the Association of British Television Makers (ABTM).

It will have 13,000 members, radio, television and film, and will be the largest of its kind in the world. The merger will be completed by the end of the year.

A national ballot, held by the Electoral Society, resulted in 4,191 members in favour of the merger, with 1,547 against. The union for 18,000 workers in the industry, the National Union of Journalists, has also agreed to the merger.

Mr Tony Hearn and Sapper, the general secretary of the ABFM and ACTU, will jointly lead the new organization.

Mr Hearn said: "The merger is a landmark in the history of the industry. It will enable us to work more effectively and to provide better services to our members."

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Shaikh's £45,000 sporting guns missing at airport

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Mystery surrounded the disappearance yesterday of six high quality English sporting guns valued at £15,000 a pair which the Shaikh of Dubai had sent back to Britain for overhaul and refurbishing.

At Birmingham airport it was said that they were missing after being offloaded from the Shaikh's personal aircraft on July 31. The guns, which had been due to land at Luton airport having first flown from Dubai to Edinburgh, but because of bad weather was diverted to Birmingham where it landed for about five hours under guard.

The sportsmen, which did not require an import licence, were put into a van which then left the airport.

P J Proby cleared of shooting at his wife

P. J. Proby, the pop singer, was cleared by magistrates at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, yesterday of shooting at his wife with an air pistol a few days after he was dismissed from the lead role in the play *Elvis*. There was a charge against Mr Proby, whose real name is James Marcus Smith, of causing actual bodily harm, was dismissed.

Mr Proby, aged 39, had told the court that his wife Dulcie was paralysed drunk at the time of the alleged offence. He had waved the gun around but it was unloaded and did not go off.

He said he had overheard his wife tell a woman visitor that she was going to run away with another man. What had really happened, he said, was that the women were playing about with the pistol which could be "deadly".

Earlier, Mrs Smith said her husband had gone into the lounge of their home at Northchurch, Hertfordshire, carrying the gun. "He sat down in a chair and started shooting without saying a word," she said. "I do not know how many times he fired, but I was hit five times and some shots hit a cushion. I was holding in front of me."

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Soviet censors cut Stalin film references

Soviet film editors interfered with western film archives in order to cut out all references to Stalin, Mr Paul Neuburg, producer of London Weekend Television's new series *Stalin—the Russian*, said yesterday.

In the course of research for the programmes, he said he had discovered that the Russians had substituted new censored prints for the original films.

He said he was alerted to what had happened when he viewed a scene from a film made in the 1930s portraying Stalin as Lenin's right-hand man. When he watched the film, he found absolutely no mention of Stalin. The film had been cut from its original length of 133 minutes to 105 minutes.

He said they were able to check the cuts by studying films from private archives. Mr Neuburg said that after Stalin's fall from favour in the Soviet Union all reference to him had been cut from their films. Then they had sent editing teams to western distributors to do the same job.

In the mid-1950s the Russians completely re-edited films depicting Stalin. Mr Neuburg said he had requested them to return the original films and archive libraries "as if they were merely better quality versions of the originals".

Michael Ratcliffe, page 7

Advertisements to appear for Forces recruits

Continued from page 1
The union will be advertising in *Soldier* magazine later in the year, with a reply coupon for those interested in joining.

"We would see trade union organization in the Armed Forces in a different context than for others. We would in no way seek to interfere with the disciplinary code, but there is no good reason why a Service person on a disciplinary charge should not be represented by the elected trade union official," he said.

Mr Mulley told the Commons on May 23: "Until it is clear what trade unions could do for the Armed Forces, I would not think it right to encourage a widespread recruitment campaign."

Mr Mulley said he was aware of the fact that the Armed Forces had a long history of recruiting from trade unions. He said he was aware of the fact that the Armed Forces had a long history of recruiting from trade unions.

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Vaccine fund payment is withheld

The parents of a boy, aged five, who died last year as a result of whooping cough vaccination, will not qualify for the Government's £10,000 payment to each family of children damaged by the vaccine, they learned yesterday.

The reason given to the parents of Jerome Hunt, of Fair Oak, Hampshire, by the Department of Health and Social Security is that he died on May 27 last year, while the payment scheme came into effect on May 9 this year. The department is refusing to pay out for children who died before that date.

The boy was vaccinated as a baby and began having convulsions the next day. Mr Vernon Hunt, his father, said that it was ironic that his son died at an inconvenient date. "Now we have to return to fighting and grovelling for money."

The department's letter to Mr Hunt stated: "I am sorry that your son's case does not come within the scope of the scheme, which is not a compensation settlement but is designed to ease the present and future burden to those suffering from vaccine damage and their families."

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Workers on the Tube may strike

Workers on the London Underground meet next week to consider strike calls in protest at staff economies. They are already refusing to cooperate with management over what they say are cuts being forced on London Transport by the Greater London Council.

Two mass meetings on Tuesday will decide on calls from union branches to step up the action.

Mr Robert Kettle, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen's London district committee, which covers 14,000 workers, said big sums were already being lost with booking offices at 17 stations periodically closed. Stations were getting dirtier as staff refused to cover for colleagues off sick or on holiday.

The GLC wants expenditure on transport cut by £3m this year.

Betting on monster
Ladbroke's, the bookmakers, yesterday opened a book on the Loch Ness monster. They are offering odds of 33 to 1 against its existence being proved.

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OVERSEAS

Peking talks produce complete text of Sino-Japanese pact

Peking, Aug. 11.—Japanese and Chinese officials have completed the text of a peace and friendship treaty between the two countries and it can be signed when Japanese legal procedures are completed, Japanese diplomatic sources said today.

The text has been agreed upon. So now it is a matter of going through the necessary procedures in Tokyo, the sources said.

They were not sure what would be entailed in this apart from Cabinet approval.

The final wording was worked out by a drafting committee of three officials from each side. They met during the day and concentrated on the controversial clause condemning hegemony.

In Tokyo, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, said that "a situation has emerged so that we can conclude a treaty without altering our position on hegemony, territorial and other problems."

The diplomatic sources in Peking said that the wording did not require any further consideration by Mr. Sunao Sonoda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, who arrived in Peking on Tuesday, or Mr. Huang Hua, his Chinese counterpart.

The two men would be dining at the Japanese Ambassador's residence tonight and "you can safely imagine there will be a confirmation (of the final draft)", the sources said.

Michael Binyon writes from Moscow: As the Chinese and Japanese prepare to sign a treaty of peace and friendship, the Soviet Union has stepped up its attacks on China while giving Japan a stern warning of the serious international consequences of such a treaty.

A lengthy Tass commentary published today in Pravda said that the Chinese had put unprecedented pressure on Japan to include an anti-hegemony clause which was directed against the Soviet Union. China regarded this clause as the basis of the treaty and no longer bothered to hide its anti-Soviet character. This was even stated in Chinese Communist Party rules which were revised last year.

Quoting doubts expressed by Japanese politicians and the press, Tass said that this clause showed "complete disdain" for the Japanese foreign policy of maintaining friendly relations with all countries.

The Chinese had already shown their expansionist and hegemonic intent in the attempt to settle by force the question of the disputed Senkaku islands, the commentary does not give any indication of the imminence of the treaty's signing.

In brief

United attack on Mr Trudeau

Regina, Saskatchewan, Aug. 11.—The plans of Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, for constitutional reform have led to a clash with the heads of the country's 10 provincial governments.

The Premier, who has formed a common front for the first time, today issued a communiqué here, accusing Mr. Trudeau of encroaching on matters that lay under provincial control.

Blacks liaison post

Washington, Aug. 11.—President Carter announced that Mr. Louis Martin, aged 65, a prominent black Democrat who served in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, will join the White House staff as his special assistant for liaison with blacks.

Kenyan denial

Nairobi, Aug. 11.—The Kenya Government has denied an allegation made earlier this week by President Albert René of the Seychelles that Kenya has harboured or provided training facilities for mercenaries who recently overthrew the Government of the Comoro Islands.

Armenians join sit-in

Moscow, Aug. 11.—A Soviet Armenian woman and her two sons, aged nine and five, were sitting in at the United States Embassy in Moscow today, swelling to 10 the number of Soviet citizens taking refuge in the consular lobby.

US admiral appointed

Brussels, Aug. 11.—Vice-Admiral Harry Train, Commander of the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, has been appointed Supreme Allied Commander for the Atlantic, NATO headquarters announced today.

Bergman's return

Stockholm, Aug. 11.—Ingmar Bergman, self-exiled film director, will return to the Swedish stage on Monday to conduct rehearsals of a play interrupted in 1976 by his arrest at the Royal Dramatic Theatre on tax evasion charges, according to a spokesman for the theatre.

South Africa visitor

Cape Town, Aug. 11.—Mr. Charles Njorjo, Kenya's Attorney-General, has accepted an invitation from Dr. Christiaan Barnard, pioneer of the heart transplant operation, to visit South Africa, the South African Press Association reported.

Warships sunk 'claim'

Bangkok, Aug. 11.—Vietnam claimed that its naval forces sank three Cambodian warships and heavily damaged three others in Vietnamese waters during the first six months of this year.

Challenge to Muzorewa authority in party talks

From Frederick Cleary Salisbury, Aug. 11

The leadership of Bishop Abel Muzorewa will be tested this weekend. Some 200 delegates, from all parts of Rhodesia, are to meet at the United African National Council headquarters in Salisbury to consider a number of topics, including his leadership.

Four senior members of the party have challenged the bishop, deriding him as politically inept.

The four—the Rev Arthur Kanoderere, former party treasurer-general, the Rev Max Chigwedza, party secretary for natural resources, Mr. S. E. N. Muchenje, party secretary for labour, and Mr. J. W. Z. Kurewa, party deputy secretary for education—will appear before the UANC disciplinary committee tomorrow to answer charges of disloyalty.

The chairman of the committee is Mr. James Chikwena, second-in-command of the party and co-Minister of Transport and Power.

There has been mounting criticism of the bishop since he signed the March 31 internal settlement agreement. "There was particularly strong criticism earlier this week when, after calling out strongly only last week-end for the immediate removal of all forms of racial discrimination, he accepted only a few days later measures comparatively minor in nature relating to the removal of discriminatory legislation."

Bishop Muzorewa has counter-attacked against his critics, particularly against a group that he has appointed to senior posts within the party people with family and tribal ties.

Rhodesian security forces announced today that they had killed two members of the guerrilla gang that murdered 13 British troops and children at the Elim mission near Umtali in June.

Journalists were shown the bodies of two guerrillas who had been killed about 20 miles south of the mission yesterday. Recovered weapons, ammunition, equipment and notebooks purported to indicate that the two were members of the Elim massacre gang and that they acknowledged Mr. Robert Mugabe, a leader of the Patriotic Front, as their political commander.

Coming at a time when West European governments are being courted by China, this would seem to confirm the Russians' worst fears of having powerful and hostile forces on both flanks linking up with each other.

The commentary does not give any indication of the imminence of the treaty's signing.

Eight killed during week of feuding in Ankara

From Sinan Fisek Ankara, Aug. 11

With eight dead and more than 20 wounded, Ankara during the past few days has become the scene of a bloody feud.

The latest act in this apparent vendetta was played out last night in the suburb of Balgat, west of Ankara, when five men in a black car drove past four cafes whose clientele was known to be predominantly left-wing and, in perfect gangland style, sprayed the customers with submachine gun fire.

The final toll was four dead and 11 seriously wounded. Officials reported that witnesses had identified two of the killers as known right-wing extremists.

It started on Tuesday night with another right-wing automatic weapons attack, this time in Mamak, a working-class suburb east of Ankara. The target was a city bus. Three died and 10 were wounded.

The following day, a right-wing youth leader was shot dead in his shop by a man who has since been identified by the police.

After last night's attack in Balgat, bomb explosions which caused extensive damage but no casualties could be heard across Ankara.

This week's violence has obviously become the biggest problem that Mr. Bulent Ecevit's left-of-centre Government has to face.

It was unfortunate that the attack on the bus, which apparently sparked off the feud, coincided with a statement by Mr. Ecevit in which he said that political violence in Ankara had decreased compared with last year.

'Open city' plan rejected by Lebanese rightists

Beirut, Aug. 11.—Proposals to demilitarize Beirut and turn it into an "open city" were rejected today by a Christian Phalangist spokesman.

He said the proposals failed to recognize the fundamental principles behind the struggle being waged.

The plans put forward on Wednesday provided for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from the city, the dismantling of all arms, whether Christian or Muslim, and the rapid rebuilding of the Lebanese Army.

Mr. Nathan began broadcasting a series of anti-war appeals to the International Red Cross and President Sarkis, requesting permission to unload.

Then yesterday, claiming sudden engine failure, the ship limped back towards Beirut harbour on an auxiliary motor. Again refused permission to dock, it was anchored about half a mile from the shore, well within range of the scores of heavy weapons now concentrated in and around the troubled port.

Mr. Nathan, a former restaurateur who lost \$51b in weight earlier this year during a "fast for peace", claims not to represent any national or political cause. During one of his personal broadcasts he told listeners in Beirut earlier this week: "We brought this cargo to you because we believe that while the whole world was standing still there were many people who cared."

In spite of his claims, doubts about the exact status of the mission have been raised by the presence of a number of Israeli journalists on board the passenger ship and Mr. Nathan's angry refusal to have any dealings with correspondents or camera crews from Beirut. His presence in the bay has already prompted local boatmen to raise the fee for the short trip from \$20 to \$80.

Claims broadcast by Israeli radio in Jerusalem that international maritime law allows the captain of a damaged ship refuge in the nearest port have so far failed to persuade the Lebanese authorities to relax their ban. Explaining their attitude, one Cabinet minister emphasized that Lebanon "was an Arab country which was still at war with Israel."



The former Miss Christina Onassis relaxing in Athens yesterday. She says she will return to Russia for a honeymoon, but would prefer her husband, Mr. Sergei Kauzov, to move to the West.

British Jew appeals to Mr Begin

From Michael Knipe Jerusalem, Aug. 11

One of the most influential figures in the British Zionist establishment has made a public appeal in Israel to Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, to call an election to establish the extent of support for his policy on negotiations for a Middle East settlement.

Mr. Michael Sacher contends that Mr. Begin was elected fundamentally on his economic programme and that his attitude to peace negotiations was not a factor at last year's elections. A new election, he says, would establish whether the people of Israel support Mr. Begin's "seemingly inflexible approach."

In a letter published in the Jerusalem Post, Mr. Sacher says that the attitude of the present administration in Israel is disturbing "to those of us in the Diaspora who have been deeply involved with Zionism and Israel all our lives."

Mr. Sacher is president of the Joint Israel Appeal, a governor of the Jewish Agency, and vice-chairman of Marks and Spencer. His father was chairman of the war and a close associate of the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann.

Belgian minister cancels his Prague visit

Brussels, Aug. 11.—Mr. Henri Boel, the Belgian Minister of the Interior today cancelled a planned visit to Czechoslovakia after the arrest and expulsion of a Belgian journalist from that country.

Mr. Hugo Camps, the editor of the newspaper Het Belang van Limburg, travelled to Czechoslovakia on August 1 to prepare an article on the country 10 years after the "Czech spring" under Mr. Alexander Dubcek, which was ended by the Soviet-led invasion.

Mr. Camps, who returned to Belgium last night, said he was arrested on August 1 while preparing to leave Czechoslovakia. His notes, documents, personal papers and pictures were impounded.

He was taken to the frontier yesterday morning and expelled. Only his personal papers and photographs were returned.—UPI.

Oslo.—Mr. Stein Savik, the news editor, and Mr. John Myhre, a photographer of the Oslo newspaper Aftenposten, were refused permission to leave Czechoslovakia for 24 hours on Tuesday while their personal papers and films were checked.—AP.

Protest against Soviet troops on Czech soil

By Our Foreign Staff A protest against the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces on August 20, 1968, is to be delivered to the Czechoslovak Government and Federal Assembly today by Charter 77, the civil rights association formed in Prague in January last year to call for observance of existing law.

The document is the eighteenth in the series produced by Charter 77 and is made available by the Palach Press, which holds the copyright of the translation. It reached the West slightly in advance of formal delivery after searches by Czechoslovak police.

The document has been signed by the Charter 77 spokesmen: Dr. Ladislav Hek, Miss Maria Kubisova and Dr. Jaroslav Sabota.

Two years will have elapsed in a few days since the military intervention of the five Warsaw Pact countries against the Czechoslovak Republic. It was carried out without the knowledge and consent of the supreme bodies of the Czechoslovak state—the President of the Republic, the Government, and National Assembly—as well as without the knowledge and consent of the then leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, its first secretary, its Praesidium or central committee.

The entry of these armies was an unlawful act committed in breach of the United Nations Charter, the Warsaw Treaty, the Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty of friendship and mutual assistance of December 12, 1943, as well as the convention regarding the definition of aggression, signed by both states and still valid today.

Its unlawful character was also fully confirmed by the Final Act of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on August 1, 1975, which in Article VI, dealing with the principles of peaceful co-existence, contains the commitment to refrain in all circumstances from any intervention, especially armed intervention, by a state or group of states, against another state.

The presence of Soviet troops on the territory of our state was subsequently regulated in the treaty of October 16, 1968, between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, although not even this treaty legalized the entry of the armies. Under this treaty the Soviet troops were to remain on Czechoslovak territory temporarily.

The urgency of this question has, furthermore, been underlined by this year's visit of President of the Czech Socialist Republic and chairman of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Federal Republic of Germany as well as very clear acknowledgment of peaceful character of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in the relations which our and the other Warsaw countries maintain with it.

What is more, no men have been made any of the occasions of the danger of the treaty of October 16, justify the temporary presence of Soviet troops on Czech territory.

These are facts from which governments of the countries concerned should draw conclusions which would correspond to the normal relations with the Czechoslovak Republic and the normal relations with the Federal Republic of Germany but, in particular, to the normal relations between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Soviet Union.

The fact that the August intervention has so seriously complicated Czechoslovakia's development and that the only way out of this situation is the withdrawal of the troops, only underlines the urgency of this question.

UN Namibia mission may decide to quit

From Ray Kennedy Windhoek, Aug. 11

Serious differences have arisen between Mr. Martti Ahtisaari's United Nations fact-finding team and the South African Administrator General in Namibia (South-West Africa) over the timetable for independence and the return of thousands of refugees to take part in elections.

An early election would be unlikely to favour candidates supported by South Africa, whereas a later poll including refugees would increase the vote for nationalist groups.

Mr. Justice Steyn, the Administrator General, is in Pretoria today for talks with Mr. John Vorster, the Prime Minister. Sources at the United Nations said that Mr. Ahtisaari's mission is predicting that Mr. Ahtisaari might also be ready to pack up and leave for New York by next weekend after only five working days in Namibia.

It was thought originally that the mission, which arrived on Sunday to a tumultuous welcome by Namibia's main political parties, would be in the territory for at least three weeks.

Mr. Ahtisaari has said publicly that good progress is being made in the negotiations on independence and Mr. Justice Steyn has spoken enthusiastically of the warm personal and working relationship he has established with the Finnish diplomat.

However, Mr. Justice Steyn told journalists that South Africa's target date for independence of December 31 was a "mandatory element not capable as the document stands of variation."

The registration of voters now going on, he said, had resulted in 80 per cent of the people registering as far, which was a "strong indication that they wanted an election soon and did not mind the registration proceeding without United Nations supervision. He saw no reason to scrap it."

Both the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Namibian National Front (NNF) have told Mr. Ahtisaari that they want the registration repeated under United Nations control. Leaders of the Lutheran Evangelical Church of Ovambo-Kavango, the biggest church in the country, who saw him today said they were extremely unhappy about the way the registration was being carried out.

The judge's comments on the December 31 independence target came as no surprise to United Nations sources as they reflected the long-held South African position. But there was considerable surprise over the judge's intransigent attitude, reflecting his briefing from Pretoria, towards the registration process.

The United Nations mission is concerned that refugees in southern Angola and Zambia be given the opportunity to return home to take part in pre-independence elections.

It would be impossible for the refugees to return in time for pre-independence elections before December 31. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, who is in Vienna, has reported here today, saying that independence could hardly be achieved before next May, and most political parties in Windhoek, apart from the ethnic Democratic Turnhalle Alliance set next June as the most realistic target.

The Alliance, formed from the 11 ethnic groups that took part in the Turnhalle constitutional conference set up at the South African Government's behest, wants elections soon and independence by December 31.

A delay until the rains cease next March and the influx of several thousand refugees will favour SWAPO.

S African guerrillas claim to have killed 10 soldiers

From Our Correspondent Lusaka, Aug. 11

The African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa tonight claimed that its guerrillas had killed 10 South African soldiers and captured one other in a clash with defence forces.

A communiqué said a small detachment of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the military wing of the ANC, fought a four-hour battle with a detachment of the South African defence force reinforced by members of the national guard of the Boputhatswana.

The battle was said to have taken place on the afternoon of August 1 in the Rustenberg area of the western Transvaal. The town lies about 60 miles west of the capital and 75 miles north of Johannesburg.

The ANC claimed the defence forces encircled the guerrilla unit and sprayed the area with gunfire as well as napalm, defoliants and tear gas which caused heavy casualties.

"Utter nonsense": In Pretoria a South African defence spokesman dismissed the ANC communiqué as "utter nonsense".—Reuter.

The latest shooting, giving the newest threat to the survival of the ANC, the spokesman said, was the result of the ANC's "idiotic strategy" to use New York newspapermen.

We have, for instance, a fireman's which will endanger the lives of the people of the Republic of South Africa.

The fact that the August intervention has so seriously complicated Czechoslovakia's development and that the only way out of this situation is the withdrawal of the troops, only underlines the urgency of this question.

Death plot man turns key witness

Washington, Aug. 11—

Michael Townley, an American expatriate, pleaded guilty today to taking part in the 1976 plot to assassinate Senator Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean diplomat and critic of Chile's present regime.

In plea bargaining arrangements with the state, Mr. Townley, aged 35, agreed to be the key witness in its case against three high ranking Chilean secret police officials and five anti-Castro Cuban exiles.

Mr. Townley said he was involved in the assassination of Senator Letelier when a bomb exploded in his car in a Washington street in 1976. In exchange Mr. Townley will get a 10-year prison sentence and the possibility of parole after three years and four months.

United States District Judge Barrington Parker said he accepted the agreement in the interest of justice. However, he declined to sentence Mr. Townley immediately.

Earlier in the day three Cuban exiles accused in the murder pleaded not guilty. The accused men are Guillermo Novo Sampol, his brother Ignacio, and Alvin Ross Diaz.

The state alleges that the Chilean secret police engaged the Cuban exiles to help carry out the assassination.

Describing his activities in the days leading up to Senator Letelier's death, Mr. Townley said he watched the former diplomat's movements in Washington, then purchased some articles such as baking tins and a radio to finish assembly of the bomb.

"I assembled the device, I placed the device myself in Letelier's car while it was parked outside his home," Mr. Townley said.

The prosecutor told the court that without Mr. Townley's cooperation, the case against the others would collapse, though he was prepared to put scores of other witnesses on the stand to corroborate Mr. Townley's testimony.—AP.

Memphis police go on strike

Memphis, Aug. 11.—The city's 1,100 union police officers went on strike early today.

The Tennessee National Guard units and non-union officers were called in.

Union members rejected the city's two-year wage package offer by a 2-1 vote yesterday, saying the offer was "influenced by 'frustrations' that have welled up over the past several years during the negotiating process".—UPI.

Crew killed in Vulcan crash

Northbrook, Illinois, Aug. 11.—A four-jet British Vulcan bomber crashed in flames in this Chicago suburb today, and police said there were no survivors among the crew.

The aircraft was heading for Chicago when it was taken part in an air show this weekend. Witnesses said fire seemed to spurt from the bomber in midflight.—Agence France-Presse.

Protest against Soviet troops on Czech soil

By Our Foreign Staff A protest against the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact forces on August 20, 1968, is to be delivered to the Czechoslovak Government and Federal Assembly today by Charter 77, the civil rights association formed in Prague in January last year to call for observance of existing law.

The document is the eighteenth in the series produced by Charter 77 and is made available by the Palach Press, which holds the copyright of the translation. It reached the West slightly in advance of formal delivery after searches by Czechoslovak police.

The document has been signed by the Charter 77 spokesmen: Dr. Ladislav Hek, Miss Maria Kubisova and Dr. Jaroslav Sabota.

Two years will have elapsed in a few days since the military intervention of the five Warsaw Pact countries against the Czechoslovak Republic. It was carried out without the knowledge and consent of the supreme bodies of the Czechoslovak state—the President of the Republic, the Government, and National Assembly—as well as without the knowledge and consent of the then leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, its first secretary, its Praesidium or central committee.

The entry of these armies was an unlawful act committed in breach of the United Nations Charter, the Warsaw Treaty, the Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty of friendship and mutual assistance of December 12, 1943, as well as the convention regarding the definition of aggression, signed by both states and still valid today.

Its unlawful character was also fully confirmed by the Final Act of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on August 1, 1975, which in Article VI, dealing with the principles of peaceful co-existence, contains the commitment to refrain in all circumstances from any intervention, especially armed intervention, by a state or group of states, against another state.

The presence of Soviet troops on the territory of our state was subsequently regulated in the treaty of October 16, 1968, between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, although not even this treaty legalized the entry of the armies. Under this treaty the Soviet troops were to remain on Czechoslovak territory temporarily.

The urgency of this question has, furthermore, been underlined by this year's visit of President of the Czech Socialist Republic and chairman of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Federal Republic of Germany as well as very clear acknowledgment of peaceful character of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in the relations which our and the other Warsaw countries maintain with it.

What is more, no men have been made any of the occasions of the danger of the treaty of October 16, justify the temporary presence of Soviet troops on Czech territory.

These are facts from which governments of the countries concerned should draw conclusions which would correspond to the normal relations with the Czechoslovak Republic and the normal relations with the Federal Republic of Germany but, in particular, to the normal relations between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Soviet Union.

The fact that the August intervention has so seriously complicated Czechoslovakia's development and that the only way out of this situation is the withdrawal of the troops, only underlines the urgency of this question.

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Saturday Review

Life with Alfred Hitchcock

by John Russell Taylor

at lunch one day, up in a room at Universal Studios I finally plucked up courage to ask him. Could he tell me how he felt about the possibility of my writing his biography? Well, would he consider it? Hitchcock paused and pondered. "John, a lot of people have asked me I've always said no. I'm not going to say no to you, but I want to say yes just fair enough. End of conversation."

continued to eat our steak, medium well for me, a small ham with mashed potatoes (I remember because that was what we always had)—talked of other things: politics, the theatre of the west, the present state of cinema. Much as I always did, for I had got to be habit, since living in Los Angeles, of seeing Hitchcock regularly, just in the line of agreeable social occasion, the impression that he was a (i) I was, after all, a British, and could make of all those British topics preoccupied him, as one still got practically all his about the state of the from reading *The Times* morning, and (ii) because I was sufficiently informed in the industry to be in any way involved.

could, however, backtrack to explain how I arrived at point, early in 1973. I knew Hitch for some

years, in the way that a film critic knows a film-maker—which is to say, usually, a bit guardedly on both sides. The critic generally avoids getting too close personally to anyone whose work he may have to criticize adversely at some future date; the film-maker, however well he may get on personally with the critic, naturally fears future betrayal. Mind you, when I got to know Hitch, around 1960, one could have been forgiven for thinking he must be impregnable: surely, anyone whose last three films had been *Vertigo*, *North by Northwest* and *Psycho*, with *The Birds* currently in the works, could hardly care much about what any mere critic might have to say. While I, dazzled by the excitement of meeting one of my all-time idols could never have conceived of anything like a friendship developing between us, I was later on to find that I was wrong on both counts. But for the time being we were both, it seemed to me, pretty unguarded. I would generally see him once or twice when he was in London, we would occasionally meet at film festivals, and I lurked a little on the sidelines while he was shooting *Frenzy* in London. And that was about it until I first went out to Los Angeles.

It was through a somewhat unfortunate incident that I got to know him better. I spent the month of February, 1972, in Los Angeles, thinking I owed it to my profession to see something of Hollywood while there was something like the Hollywood I had known and loved at a distance still

there to see. I went out with various introductions, through one of which I was invited round one night to the house of a famous producer to see his remarkable art collection.

That afternoon his secretary called me to ask if I could come a bit later than arranged, as he was screening the new Hitchcock film (*Frenzy*) and thought I might like to see it. Wouldn't I just? But when I arrived with a friend it was all very strange. My host was curiously vague and abstracted. What a pity I had come so late: he would have to rush me round because he was having some people in in half an hour to see a movie. I was at the first a little embarrassed (had I misunderstood?) then increasingly irritated, so I decided to learn on him ever so slightly—with the result that we got chummy after a while and as the other guests never arrived he showed us *Frenzy* after all. I found out afterwards that after getting his secretary to invite me my name rang a faint bell and he realized that he should not be showing this film, seen by no one up to then, to horror of horrors, a film critic. If he had come clean there could have been no argument, but by trying to be devious he had got himself just where he did not want to be.

Anyway, since of course I was completely bowled over by the film, he felt he could confess to Hitch and pass on the news that I had loved it. Hitch was absolutely furious—I don't think he has yet forgiven the producer—but happily this did not seem to rub off on me, and I think that from then on I was gradually accepted into the "family" because I had passed the test: I had not made any use of privileged in-

formation or let on to anyone that I had seen the film until it turned up at Cannes three months later. Hitch places a very high value on loyalty and I suppose he regarded this as a demonstration of loyalty and reliability or something. He takes his time about trusting anyone, but once he makes up his mind he does so completely, and the *Frenzy* incident seems to have been my first step (along that road).

That autumn I went out to Los Angeles as Visiting Professor in the Cinema Division of the University of Southern California—for a semester, as I thought, though as I got progressively enamoured by the place and the people it came to be a full-time job. And so I had drifted into this routine with Hitch. And suddenly, once I had delivered the book I was then working on and, in my usual state of post-natal depression, began to wonder what I was going to write next, the obvious dawned on me. I think subjects for books usually come out and find you: once the idea formulates itself you realize that, unconsciously, you have been in training for some time past, storing away ideas and bits of information like a jackdaw with no clear idea why and for what.

Thus it had been with me. I had always been fascinated by Hitchcock's films: *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and *Jamaica Inn* were two of the earliest films I ever saw (*Jamaica Inn* really scared me at the age of six, but I staunchly refused to be taken out of the cinema till the end) and I had kept very consistently with them ever since. And, naturally once I became aware that it was the director who actually made the film, I became fascinated with Hitch himself. I was an in-

terate keeper of scrapbooks, and I had one devoted entirely to him. Later, when I became a journalist and started interviewing people, I always made a point of asking anyone I met who had worked with Hitch all about him, his methods of film-making, his private personality. So once the idea formed in my mind, I found I already had a lot of material in my head and on paper. All I needed was his agreement to go ahead. This, both because for a lot of the early days he seemed unlikely to be vitally the only source and authority, and, more generally, because I liked him enough and enjoyed his company enough that I did not want to do it without his approval and certainly did not want to run the risk of his feeling that I had pumped him for information without his being completely clear about what, over and above my personal interest, I wanted it for.

What then, I asked myself, should I do about this qualified suggestion of his future agreement to the project? The answer, obviously, was absolutely nothing. Let him think about it in his own good time, do nothing to hurry him into a decision, but just watch and wait. So that is precisely what I did. I have since been told by writers who have worked on the scripts of his films that something like this is a common pattern in his life. Once an idea has been put to him, he likes to brood over it and, as it were, audition the person concerned for reliability, compatibility and so on. I suppose that is what he was doing with me in the following months. For more than a year we continued to meet pretty regularly, and talk about anything under the sun—except the proposed biography. But I did notice one thing: in his parentheses he gradually slipped from saying "if you write this biography..." to "When you write..." Finally, when I was back in England for the summer, I wrote to him to ask, from a distance that would make him comfortable, whether he had had any further thoughts on the subject, and after a short interval, I got back a typical letter which started with one sentence saying "Yes, of course you can" and then went on for two pages with a gruesome record of his latest medical trials, including a kidney stone ("Of course, nowadays they don't cut you. They go in from the front, if you know what I mean") colitis and the fitting of a heart pacemaker, all of which he had had done under local anaesthetic, since he likes to be conscious of everything that is going on.

You might wonder why I say "from a distance that would make him comfortable". That is one of the first things I learned on really getting to know Hitch: he does have a formidable image to the outside world, and certainly in his work he is determined to get absolutely what he wants. But personally he is the mildest, gentlest, most timorous person you could ever wish to meet. He is terrified of confrontations, will not engage in arguments of any kind, and hates to be put in a position where he may have to express an unfavourable reaction to anything done by someone he knows. Charles Bennett, writer on several Hitchcock films in Britain and America, put it succinctly when he said of Hitch: "Biggest bully in the world; kindest man I've ever known in my life." And certainly when I had finally completed the biography, I had almost to force Hitch to read the typescript—far indeed from those who insist on checking and rewriting everything you ever write about them convinced that it is the nature of the writer to get everything wrong. Not that I imagine Hitch had any illusions about my infallibility, but simply that he did not want in any way to tell me I was wrong.

Once I had got the go-ahead, everything would seem to be plain sailing. And so, in the main, it was. But Hitch does have a certain teasing side to his nature: in self-protection if for no other reason he has through the years made life around him a game which other people have to play according to his rules or not at all. I sensed that I could ask him anything, but there were many things that I would gain points for finding out by myself. I could, for instance, knowing that he had a brother and a sister, have easily asked him if either of them was still alive, and if so for their addresses. But it seemed more in the spirit of the enterprise that I should find out for myself, as, quite by chance, I was able to do: one day I happened to be talking about the book to a group who included, unknown to me, a relative of Hitch's who was able to tell me that his sister was still alive and well, and after a little more inquiry was able to give me her address. It pleased and amused me greatly to be

able to say to Hitch when I got back to California: "By the way, your sister sends her love", and watch (I think) a slight air of surprise pass behind his usual carefully impassive mask.

Certainly as far as documentation is concerned, Hitch is a dream. Everyone who has ever worked with him wants to talk about him (with one notable exception, but eventually I got to her too), and the devotion he has inspired is astounding—indeed, there were times when I irreverently hoped to hear a few malicious details. But none ever seemed to be forthcoming. Picturesque details in plenty, though: even people who have merely brushed him in passing all have their Hitchcock stories to tell. The lady who helped me get a copy of his birth certificate at Somerset House (that was how I found out the exact address of his birthplace, then a disused Pakistani grocery in Leytonstone) asked timidly "Is that the Alfred Hitchcock?" and then told me that he was godfather to one of her sons, since her late husband had been a grip on a couple of his films before the war. A bookseller friend told me in vivid detail about watching, aged about six, Hitch and his unit making *The Man from Nowhere* near Penzance and causing havoc in the normally staid family hotel where they were all staying.

And then, first and foremost, there is Hitch's own memory. It is always reputed to be phenomenal, but for once it really lives up to its reputation. One meets many people who seem after a while rather like Stepford Wives: they have programmed themselves to remember so much, but they really remember only the stories they have always told about their lives, not the life itself. It is far otherwise with Hitch. Naturally there are stories he has told often, some of them not strictly true but edited into their familiar form by the born raconteur's art. But you can point him in any direction to ask specific questions and he will rifle through his mental card index and come up with equally specific replies. On one occasion I found an old reference to *The Prisoner's Fall*, fifth of the six films he worked on as design assistant, writer and general factum before he directed his own first film, which indicated that it had been shot a couple of years earlier and shelved. Was this true, I asked him. He considered. "No, because, let me see, we started shooting *The Prisoner's Fall* on location in Calais in April, 1925—the weather was terrible, I remember—and then came back to Islington and shot for another four weeks..." Now all of that he can have had no reason to think about for upwards of 50 years, but when he has to, there it all is. Most of us would have problems being so specific about something that happened only a year ago.

Next only to Hitch's memory in importance is that of Mrs Hitchcock, Alma. My first image of Alma goes back to a press lunch in London, I think maybe for *Torn Curtain*. A colleague justly renowned for his gallantry to the ladies was trying to engage her in light conversation. Did she, he inquired, ever read the scripts of Hitchcock films before they were made? Yes usually. Probably, he pursued, she would be interested in the feminine angle, possible casting for the heroine? "Oh no", Alma said sweetly, "I'm usually looking to see if they will cut together properly." As Hitch delights to remind people, she was in films before he was, a fully fledged film editor when he was hardly more than an office boy. A quirky and outspoken lady, she remains about the only unpredictable element in the comforting, comfortable world Hitch has built around himself to keep confrontation at bay. For this reason if no other many people who knew the Hitchcocks told me I would never be able to get to Alma: she never gave interviews, she was still slowly recovering from a serious stroke, and anyway, Hitch never knew what she was going to say next. But clearly those who said so were underestimating both the Hitchcocks: when the time came I was able to meet with Alma on a number of occasions, and talk very freely with her.

One evening at dinner with the two of them at Chasens, Hitch's favourite restaurant for many years (they always dine there on Thursdays, always at the same table), I was even able to extract from Hitch a story that Alma had never heard. It occurred to me that since he was 18 in 1917 he must have been eligible for military service in the First World War. Well, said Hitch, he had received a low grade in the medical, but he had joined a territorial group, and remembered going along from work with another lad for manoeuvres in Hyde Park, and the trouble he had to keep his

puttees from falling round his ankles, and going afterwards to have pouched eggs on toast (the who claims never to have eaten eggs in his life) at Marble Arch Cornerhouse. Alma was astonished: "Why, Hitch, you never told me you were in the army! I felt that was a small, perhaps, but very real triumph."

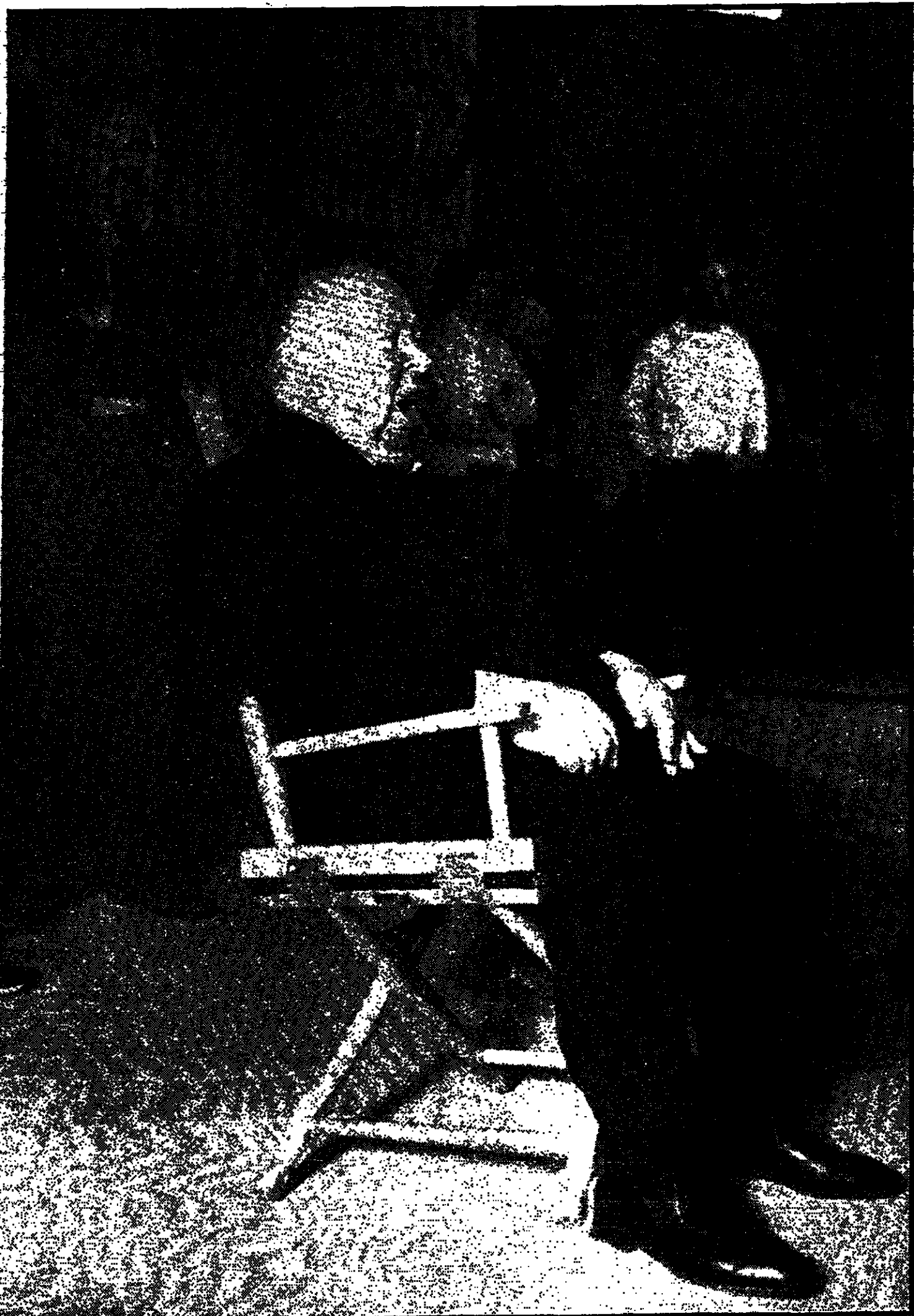
Where, then, were the problems in the enterprise? There must surely have been some problems. I suppose the most obvious problem to an outsider was the one which in practice least concerned me. It is, of course, how do you go about making interesting the life story of someone with no deep dark secrets to be revealed, someone who has been happily married to the same woman for more than 50 years, someone who is by general consent in all his business dealings a model of probity carried almost to the point of stiffness, who gets unreserved testimonials from just about everyone who has ever worked with him or known him well? In the abstract it sounds like an almost insuperable problem; in practice, if the man so described happens to be Alfred Hitchcock, it merely adds to the fascination. For who would think it of the man who has created the ferocious horror comedy of *Psycho*, has explored the morbid psychology of *Marnie* or *Frenzy* with such evident sympathy and understanding, has made some of the screen's greatest stories of romantic obsession in *Notorious* and *Vertigo*? That such a man should be also a devout, church-going Roman Catholic, a model bourgeois husband and father, living a typical English suburban life, even when a multi-millionaire in the midst of Bel Air, only deepens the mystery.

When I started out, an old associate of Hitchcock told me: "There is no one outside his films." When I was nearing the end, one of his writers said: "How you feel about Alfred Hitchcock depends on how you feel about movies. He has made himself into a movie." Both of these statements are true, and not true. If I had hoped to find "the real Alfred Hitchcock", something I absolutely did not expect which would gradually be revealed in terms of unknown areas in his life full of guilty passion and double-dealing, then I would have been doomed to disappointment. But what I wanted was to find out what made the man I knew from his films—for few film makers permit themselves to be so totally known through their work as Hitchcock. How the parts of his life history fitted together, how, if at all, the evident contradictions were resolved. How could someone so careful of his dignity lead himself to such ridiculous publicity stunts? How could someone so terrifyingly familiar throughout the world—especially since the television series—manage to guard his essential privacy so well? Could the real Alfred Hitchcock be the same as the inescapable public image Alfred Hitchcock disguised in a Alfred Hitchcock mask?

In the past four or five years I have come a lot nearer to answering these questions for myself, and, I hope, for other people too. I still cannot come up with any easy cut-and-dried answers to some of the questions people ask me, like why does he always set up, glamorize and then mistreat and shatter the cool, sophisticated blondes in his films? I can hypothesize, of course, about some adolescent trauma. And I can add to the general store of knowledge the fact that, for someone famed in his films as a misogynist, Hitch has had through the years an extraordinary number of female collaborators (starting with Alma) and seems if anything happier in the company of women than of men. I can tell you what he eats, what he does on his holidays, how he passes his days, what else he thinks he might have liked to be besides a film-maker, what he thinks about the possibility of retirement.

There is no real Alfred Hitchcock outside his films? Well, possibly. But then, in a career like his, does there need to be? His life is the story of a single-minded obsession. Yes, his life in a certain sense is a movie. But then, consider the result of this obsession: that, as he enters his eightieth year and prepares to shoot his fifty-fourth feature film, there is no one in the world whose next film one looks forward to with more eager anticipation, more certain expectation of surprise and entertainment and delight. They say no man is a hero to his valet or his biographer. I don't know if Hitch is a hero to me, though his achievement is heroic. But I do know that after all this time and contact, I could not possibly like any man more.

John Russell Taylor's *Hitch: The Life and Times of Alfred Hitchcock*, will be published in early October (Faber, £6.50).



An eagle sends Faldo soaring into the lead

lucky obtained a clear view to the green and had little difficulty in making par.

He first led the field when a three-wind to 20 feet and one putt gave him an eagle three at the long 13th. He dropped two strokes thereafter but one more birdie put his nose in front at the end.

Fulford

71. D. D. Hays. 58A. 76. 46.
70. P. Perry. 70. 70. 73. J. Thom-
son. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70.
70. 71. 71. D. Jagger. 69. 70. 73.
217. G. Burrows. +US1. 72. 73. 60.
McClelland, 72. 70. 70. M. Ferguson.
70. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70.
(Canada). 72. 70. 71. B. Be-
nnett. 69. 70. 70. 70. 70. 70.
P. Tuckey. 69. 72. 72. D. Good.
P. Australis. 72. 67. 72.

214. J. H. Hall. 74. 69. 72. M.
Hallstrom. 72. 73. 69. 72. M.
Hallstrom. 72. 73. 69. 72. M.

Seagrave resting

John Seagrave, a Northern jockey, has been discharged from York Hospital after an operation and is now resting at home. He has not yet set a date for his racecourse return.

Remembering the Red Baron

star recruit
It's an ill wind. . . .
our sports pages man-
noticed a new byline dur-
last week of so—that of
now. He is, rather, a
member of the Montreal
editorial staff until that
break in negotiations of
production of new tech-
chilling reminder of the
ilities ahead in Fleet
with his travel and accom-
already arranged
welcome late recruit
James Commonwealth
am.

John Hen

As a backwoods peer, Anglo-Irish, crossbench and hereditary, I must stand high on Mr Callaghan's list of expensables. Nevertheless, I offer him and his political opposite number some advice. This time Jamaican steel bands and Scottish girl pipers in appropriate constituencies; next time, P.R. they might surprise themselves. Anything would be better than both parties being nice to extreme Ulster "loyalists".

Yours faithfully,
 T. S. LIGO.

House of Lords.

Copies of the 1978 Interim Report can be obtained from The Secretary,
Bernard Wardle and Company Limited, 32 King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6EP.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Providing a home help service to enable the sick and disabled to remain in their homes for as long as possible is a statutory duty laid upon local authorities by the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

Home helps are an important part of a domiciliary service and their work is closely linked with, and complementary to, that of the National Health Service. Yet charges may be made for the use of their services and are commonly means tested.

In 1973-74 gross expenditure on the service was more than £51m. Some of the 600,000 people who benefited had to contribute nearly £3m by way of charges.

The costs of collecting this £3m probably exceeded the income. Local authorities which apply a complicated means test find that in the majority of cases a "nil assessment" is reached.

Councils which have abolished charges have not been swamped by huge rises in demand for the services, but have found that home helps saved some time and had better relations with their patient-clients as a result.

It is anomalous that in maternity and medical cases a person staying in hospital should, under the National Health Service, pay no charge, but if recuperating at home should be charged for the assistance of a home help.

District Nurses and Health Visitors are provided free under the NHS. The home help service should be freely available also.

Stock market

Warrants and options offer a gamble

The recent surge in stock market prices may well have put some colour back into the cheeks of stockbrokers and others connected with the day-to-day business of share-dealing. But for that hardy individual the private investor, plagued by taxation and high dealing costs, any joy that there is around could be largely illusory.

After all, for the chap with a few hundred pounds tucked away in ICI even a bull market surge of exceptional proportions would be unlikely to add up to much more than the price of a new lawnmower at the end of the day.

The alternative, of course, for the stronger-nerved active investor is to attempt to "beat the market"—a riskier business involving the use of skill and intuition to seek out shares which are "going places" before even the professionals in the market have realized it. The odds are loaded heavily against the amateur, but the fun invariably increases accordingly.

There are areas in the market, however, where private investors do not necessarily have to fly completely in the face of the conventional wisdom of the professionals to maximize their returns, although the risks usually remain high, if only because the professionals themselves are not always right.

On this front, the recently launched traded options market has stirred much of the excitement with the prospect of a prolonged rise in underlying share prices throwing up the potential for substantial gains for some speculators. But the traded options pitch is limited to only 10 stocks at present and for the discerning investor, both warrants and traditional options offer much more scope.

Both these tend to come into their own in volatile market conditions and could thus bear a close look from private investors, with the market seemingly perched on a permanent knife-edge.

Warrants—which are effectively options to buy shares, usually over a long period—are mainly a legacy of the takeover days of the late sixties and early seventies. To finance the deals, companies issued loan stocks and warrants were often issued with the stock as a means of keeping the coupon down.

The warrants have since become detached from the loan stock to form markets of their own, but, of course, the warrant prices tend to move sharply, but usually in a direct ratio—to movements in the underlying share price.

The number of warrants still in existence is now very small. Leading brokers, such as Thomas Clarke & Co, deal regularly in only a dozen or so warrants of major companies and about 20 or so less of well-known companies. The biggest market is National Westminster Bank's warrant, which expires on October 1 next year and which, incidentally, Sternberg does not recommend at present prices.

Each warrant gives the holder the right to buy two-thirds of an ordinary share in the bank for £1, which compares with a corresponding stock market value of about 193p.

But the warrants at present trade at about 107p, making the effective overall cost of a two-thirds share 207p—a premium of some 7 per cent over the market worth. But a significant rise in the underlying share price would have a more significant impact on the value of the warrant. A rise of 25 per cent in the shares could perhaps increase the warrant value by more than half.

For bulls of shares, however, other warrants throw up a host of intriguing possibilities. Two which Sternberg particularly favours at present are those of Trust Houses Forte and Ladbroke.

The THF warrant now trading at £25 gives the right to buy 29.24 shares for £30 any time up to March, 1981. If you converted immediately the effective stock market value of the holder would be £58.70, against total expenditure of £75.

But if you really do believe that THF is due for a significant upward re-rating, the gearing inherent in the warrant becomes extremely interesting.

In the case of Ladbroke warrants are effectively at a discount, selling at 94p and giving the right to buy a share at 84p—a total of 178p—for a stock which is trading at 180p. The reason, of course, is that Ladbroke shares have come a long way, while the Gambling Commission's views on casinos have led to doubts about the shares.

Unlike warrants, the standard options pitch, in which Sternberg is also a leading light, provides opportunities for both bulls and bears. For a sum which is often above 10 per cent of the current share value a speculator can buy the right either to buy—"call"—or sell—"put"—shares in three months time at today's prices.

If stocks are moving fast the possibilities can be rewarding. Indeed, in the case of course, hedge their bets by taking up both "put" and "call" options—"doubles"—giving the opportunity for profit if the share moves sharply in either direction.

For the real speculator then, combining the option market with warrants would seem to offer a truly full-blooded gamble.

Taking Ladbroke as a purely theoretical exercise, a 50 per cent improvement in the share price could more than double the value of the warrant. But as long as the rise took place over the three months a call option taken out on the warrant could be worth almost ten times the price paid.

Before taking the plunge, however, investors should remember that firms like Ladbroke have made big profits out of people who put their faith in ten-to-one shots.

Richard Allen

Key points for the wife returning to work



Mrs Jeanne McCarthy and her daughter Mary-Jane: planning for the future.

Suddenly everybody has woken up to the impact the silicon computer chip is going to have on all our lives. Regular readers of this page will not be surprised. I have been writing on about it intermittently for the past three years—lost in one hand and wild money in the other.

It is all old hat now of course, and every newspaper and magazine one opens carries an article headed "chips with everything" or something. The National Enterprise Board is getting into the act—a sure sign that the trend is not only upon us but past us. Even the Think Tank is doing a survey of their effect on employment and unemployment.

I should think so too, what with estimates of 16 per cent unemployed, all made redundant by a grain of sand.

Barry Sherman of the ASTMS is deeply worried about it, as well he should be, and as indeed should be the whole of British industry and commerce, labour and management.

Any managing director who has as yet omitted to do so, and does not within half an hour of getting in on Monday morning arrange for one of his senior staff to make an assessment of the effect this little adventure is going to have on his business, deserves to be out on the street in seven years time, which is exactly where he will be.

Since I was so brilliant at forecasting the problems and the opportunities that the computer chip was going to give us, some of you may be asking: OK, cleverest, what else?

Well, you probably already know my 1983 catastrophe theory (formulated six years ago) wherein the international currency system over-heat and blows up pulling down a chain of major financial institutions and even entire countries, as suddenly everybody loses confidence and indulges in a good old-fashioned run on every bank in the world.

What else...? By heaven, Caruthers, but you're a glutton for punishment! Actually, the good news is that I reckon Britain in her muddling, infuriating way will do better than other countries faced with this disaster. The kind of world we are going to live in in the future will be polarized into the very large organizations and very small ones so that a lot of one-man bands will be able to scuttle successfully about in the cracks between the monolithic multinationals and world agencies.

In a future where the individual is released by computer technology from the production line to do his own thing,

... will be able to scuttle successfully about in the cracks between the monolithic multinationals and world agencies."

Francis Kinsman

When the chips are down...

Many thousands of women return to work each year after raising a family. Today, with Christine Darley-Jones of insurance brokers Sedgwick Forbes, we examine the finances of one who has just rejoined the "rat race".

Jeanne McCarthy is a 38-year-old housewife living in Eastbourne, Sussex. She is married to a £10,500 a year dental service executive and has two children.

Now the children are in their teenage-daughter, Mary-Jane is 16 and son Andrew is 14—she has plunged back into the outside working world for the first time since her marriage.

As secretary to the specialist advisers of the local Area Education Office she grosses £2,823 a year and most of what she gets goes in one way or another back into the family.

From a joint net income of £10,500 a year, the family's monthly outgoings are in the order of £620.

The McCartneys have an £8,000 repayment mortgage on their house, taken out over a 20-year period eight years ago. So far only minimal amounts of capital have been repaid, since each time the interest rate increased the McCartneys increased the term of their mortgage.

One extra demand on their income is the £120 a month school fees for their daughter, which they will have to pay for a further year. Their son attends a local state school.

Mrs McCarthy's income is not taxed separately and the couple's savings are in the form of two unit-linked life assurance policies costing £20 a month. They also put £10 a month by in the indexed Save-As-You-Earn scheme.

When the chips are down...

the individuality of the British—as opposed to the Germans or Japanese, for example—will make it possible for them eventually to survive and flourish.

It will be a world, too, where the feminine virtue of cooperation will swing back into prominence while the masculine characteristic of competition will decline somewhat.

As with all the other revolutionary—constitutional, industrial, social, electoral—Britain has generally led the way, and we are in the lead with this immediate human revolution as well.

A feel for the future will be an essential in times when every individual and every business is subjected to the pressures of these changes. With the computer chip taking the strain out of pure number crunching, the human element of intuition will come into prominence.

Over the next 25 years the study of parapsychology and intuitive faculties must progress until the stage is reached where they are capable of analysis. Once the secret of the process is pinned down it can be learned and exercised as a vast untapped source of human capability.

It is unnerving that a great deal of this research is now being carried out by the Russian and American defence departments, but personally I am optimistic that in the long run everything will be all right.

How can I be so sure...? Why, intuition, of course.

Francis Kinsman

Investor's week

Market tops 500 as the dollar slide boosts prices

"It can't last, it can't last," Mrs Bonaparte is supposed to have said as she scurried around the palace while her son was doing well. It is a view that dies hard in the City, and diehards shook their heads as the FT index rose excitingly from 497.2 to 514.8 this week.

Pessimists have been a trifle premature, as so often happens when men try to fashion stock markets using their intellect alone. Once again, as the week shows, it is just as important to sense moods and to appreciate that moods are as fleeting as shadows on a wall.

Only weeks ago the City was in a dither about the imminence of a general election. Are the fears City men then expressed, now as insubstantial as shadows?

Then again, few doubt that the election-inspired consumer boom will fizzle out some time next year as incomes move into line with prices.

Moreover, it is still by no means clear that the boom will work its way through to the great mass of engineering companies, which constitute the backbone of British industry by the time the jollity in consumer goods is past its peak.

But all this is in the future. What matters now, say those who are pushing shares to new peaks, is that industrial output is rising by 7 per cent a year; that company profits are growing well; that the balance of payments on current account is likely to be in surplus this year and next as cheap imports and North Sea oil do their stuff; and, finally, that money supply seems to be under reasonable control.

On this view the authorities

Christine Darley-Jones comments:

"Surprisingly, the McCartneys have no idea of the level of income Jeannette could expect in the event of Ralph's death—at 43 he is 10 years older than she is."

"Death after retirement should leave her with a pension of about half what he would have got. But—and it's a very big but—if he dies before retirement her pension is most likely to be substantially less—even though she would also be eligible for the state widow's pension."

"This would leave her with substantial liabilities and living expenses from a greatly reduced income."

"That is the nub of the McCarthy's problem—how best to protect Jeannette should Ralph die young—and it's one they have to face up to."

Mrs Darley-Jones advises that the McCartneys should find out what the widow's pension would be should this happen and makes the point that the readers with particularly hefty commitments should do the same.

"Then they should consider covering any shortfall through a family income benefit policy," she advises. "This should be written in trust for Jeannette to provide an income to make up the shortfall."

"For instance, to provide her with £1,000 a year up to the age of 60 would cost £80 in annual premiums."

It is also important that they shop around for a company which not only offers competitive premium rates but also gives the option of commuting the benefits into capital. "This

means she could choose between income and a lump sum depending on her circumstances at the time," Mrs Darley-Jones explains.

"There is, though, a more fundamental problem."

This is the McCarthy's mortgage. It is not covered at the moment by life assurance, though that could be added on to the family income benefit policy.

"The basic trouble," Mrs Darley-Jones says, "is that Mrs McCarthy's minimal capital repayments on the mortgage have been made in the eight years it has been running."

"Extending the length of a mortgage has its attractions, particularly for the younger buyer. Ralph, though, is not young. He is 48, and when he retires they may still have to meet their £83 a month mortgage payments out of his pension."

"One way out of this trap is to increase their repayments to start paying back the capital, but this has the disadvantage that income tax relief on the interest would be reduced as the interest element declined."

As incomes and tax rates rise, the tax relief and its possible loss become increasingly important. The McCarthy's mortgage should therefore be rearranged to make sure that it is repaid by the time Ralph retires, while maximizing the income tax relief on the interest before then.

"If the building society agrees," Mrs Darley-Jones advises, "the mortgage might be rearranged, with a low-cost endowment assurance assigned to the society as collateral. A low-cost endowment assurance is the combination of an endowment with-profits policy and a decreasing term assurance."

As the bonuses build the endowment policy, in case this means that the loan would be repaid on the day and any excess bonuses Ralph and Jeannette.

The cost? Christine Jones estimates that the McCartneys would have to pay £101 a month against present £85, though she out that after income tax on interest and premium true cost would be £71 a present net cost of £2.

For the extra £14 they are buying protection for making capital repayments galling the greatest aid on tax relief.

As an extra sweetener current rates they would receive bonuses at the term of £2,000.

Jeannette McCarthy does not seem to be attracted to the idea of the family's savings, the advice is that the McCartneys should keep an eye on the funds to which unit-linked policies are since there is always a fund which at first attractive will decline performance.

Hence, policies which for the switching of funds not all do—are to be mended. The SAYE at Christine Darley-Jones is a good investment, particularly since it is inflation- and Ralph McCarthy has not a will. He should, and which is often overlooked should Jeannette.

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On this view the authorities

Unit trust performance

Growth and specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index 2,383.8. Change from January 1, 1978: +14.1%.

Average change offer to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +16.5% over past three years: +71.5%.

Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, Greystones Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1ND.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Prices readily absorb profit-taking

Stock markets ended the week on a quieter note than they started with the early morning profit-taking being easily absorbed.

The FT Ordinary share index, after dipping 0.7 in the first half-hour, climbed 2.4 by mid-morning before drifting back down to end the day with a net rise of 0.8 at 514.8.

Smith & Nephew has an interim due next Tuesday, a thought that has left the market distinctly unimpressed. For some days the price has not budged from 73p. Yet Smith is a company which has done well in 1977 at its highest since 1972, and it is in principle able to raise the payment in line with earnings. These could rise by nearly a fifth this year. That would mean a yield of 5.7 per cent. Any disappointment here would certainly be noticed elsewhere in the market.

In front of Monday's trade figures, which some think will show a visible deficit of around 150m, gilts were quiet. Shorts halved an early gain of a eighth, to end at a sixth.

In equities, leaders were mixed with GKN dipping 2p to 284p, and Fisons shedding 5p to 380p. Courtlands at 119p and Smith & Nephew at 75p held steady while gains of 2p and 3p left GEC at 309p, Boots at 225p, Lucas at 326p and John Brown at 46p.

In front of figures next week, Unilever climbed 6p to 558p, but Tubes eased 2p to 412p. Pilkingtons also continued to go better, adding 10p to 620p, in front of the share-split in early September.

Babcock & Wilcox eased 2p to 145p following the sale of its near 20 per cent stake in Butterfield-Harvey, which dipped 4p to 81p on fading bid hopes.

National Westminster Bank, by contrast added 3p to 288p following its 19th share placing of Commercial Union, which held steady at 158p.

Elsewhere, continued bid hopes saw Bourne & Hollingsworth soar 22p to 265p, while speculative buying added 12p to Ricardo at 260p and a few pence each to Electromotors at 535p, R K Taylor at 95p and E. Fogarty at 157p.

Trading news from Milford Docks, where interim profits were well above market expectations added 8p to the shares at 82p, while a 14 per cent earnings growth at Gaskell & Co (Bacup) pushed the equity 9p higher to 125p.

By contrast, Longson Transport, which barely maintained profits, slipped 2p to 65p while Bishopsgate Properties, with disappointing results tumbled 2p to 5p.

Seeking a £2,500m Saudi contract, Wimpey added a penny to 92p while Laidlaw "A" lost a similar amount to 204p. Banks were little moved, ending as they opened with Lloyds at 278p, Midland at 365p and Barclays at 353p. Standard Chartered, with its annual meeting on Thursday, firmed 5p to 429p.

In oils, Ultramar shed 4p to 155p on comment following the half-time results.

Killingham Tin, with the investment premium now included in the share price, spurred 8p to 613p.

Insurances were mixed with Sun Alliance losing 10p to 108p, while the 285p profits hopes, General Accident added 2p to 238p and Royal, reporting interim figures next week, marking time at 255p. Against this trend, Pearl slipped 4p to 260p.

Shipping stocks spent a day in the doldrums with European Ferries dipping a penny and James Fisher at 170p and Furness Withy at 265p firming 2p.

Lomb, which has been left behind in the recent market rally, went a penny better to 60p having settled its differences with Kennam Sugar.

In drinks, Arthur Bell added 10p to 284p on bullish comment, while Rascal dropped 16p to 310p on a brokers' circular.

Golds were a sparkling sector on the back of a strong rise in the bullion price, a weak dollar and some uncertainty over which way the Dow Jones index would move.

A bear squeeze on the heavyweights added over £1 to West Driefontein at £28 27/32 and 50p to Val Reefs at £17 1/2. Among

Shares in Johannesburg Consolidated soared £2 1/2 to £17 1/2 yesterday on speculation of a reorganization of the platinum interests of Rustenburg Mines, where Johnnies has around 50 per cent. Interest in platinum is being fuelled by the rising price of the metal which reached a new peak of \$274.25 a troy oz. yesterday.

The marginals, which are still underperforming, Elsborg, up 5p to 144p and Western Areas, 19p higher at 238p, were the features.

In Americans, the dollar quote of Chrysler went 105p better to 995p following the plans to sell the European operations to Peugeot.

Equity turnover on August 10 was £188.47m (26,369 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Marks & Spencer, ICI, GEC, Pilkington Brothers, BAT dtd, Boots, Shell, Bourne & Hollingsworth, Arthur Bell and Vinton Group.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Bishopsgate (T)	0.62(1.2)	0.15(0.05c)	—	2.77(2.48)	2/10	(6.25)
Carlisle (F)	0.73(0.33)	0.16(0.05)	10.6(5.7)	2.74(2.44)	3/10	3.84(3.44)
Cartington (F)	0.5(0.49)	0.08(0.05)	2.7(3.4)	0.87(0.87)	2/10	(2.09)

Gaskell (Bacup) 4.8(4.07) 0.38(0.33) — 2.77(2.48) 2/10 (6.25)
Longson Trans (F) 27.8(25.5) 1.1(1.3) 15.9(17.1) 2.74(2.44) 3/10 3.84(3.44)
Milford Docks (I) 1.27(0.6) 0.17(0.02d) — 0.87(0.87) 2/10 (2.09)
W Selection (I) — — — — — — —

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Revenue, B Net deficiency, C Deficiency for 18 months. d Includes exceptional items.

Cableform more than doubles

Cableform Group, the fast-expanding control gear-maker, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £731,500 in the year to March.

In line with the pledge made at the time of the December one-for-two rights call, designed to raise £200,000, the group is paying a final dividend of 4.6p gross. This takes the total for the year up to 4.33p gross, compared with 0.48p previously.

Sales increased by almost 60 per cent to £3,650m. Earnings per share go up from 5.75p to 10.61p.

At the time of the rights, Cableform reported that it was planning substantial investment during the next few years to take advantage of growing demand for the group's products in mechanical handling markets.

'Touch and go' at Bishopsgate Property

By Ray Maughan
Bishopsgate Property and General Investments has until December 20 next to repay loans totalling DM23m.

It seems for the time being, however, that the group will be obliged to go back to its bankers and ask for a further repayment extension.

Managed by Hambros Bank, the group has about DM8m owing from a liquidator in Germany and, after the Stuttgart disposal, owns properties valued at about £2.5m in the 1977 balance sheet. In addition, there is about £1m on deposit and loans owing from Barkwell Property Holdings amount to a similar sum.

So, without more assistance from some or all of the 11-bank syndicate, Bishopsgate's continued existence looks, as one Hambros spokesman admitted yesterday, "very much touch and go".

The shares dropped 25 per cent to 6p on consideration of an estimated net asset value of 4.5p per share at end-June last which compares with 13p in December and 16p 12 months earlier.

The net deficiency reached £151,000, against £54,000 for the earlier 18-month period. While extraordinary losses, before a transfer to capital reserve, soared from £407,000 to slightly more than £3m. The value of Bishopsgate's remaining interest has been reduced, particularly in Australia where some £600,000 has been written off values to leave a residual total of about £250,000.

The forward order book is good, but because of the impact of an unexpectedly large award in May, the full year's earnings are unlikely to meet the board's original expectations.

British Parent Glazing also had a good forward order

Interim slip at Western Selection

Pre-tax profits down from £117,000 to £100,000 for the half-year to March 31 are reported by Western Selection and Development. The interim payment is held at 2.3p gross.

Western's board explains that the fall was largely the result of a reduced level of profit on sales of investments, being £19,000 against £29,000.

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Comben projects £1.35m pre-tax for nine months

Comben Group, bidding around £10.3m for Orme Development, announces its formal offer with a profit forecast of £1.35m pre-tax in the nine months to December 31 which compares with £1.3m for the full year to end-March last.

The trading period has been altered to a calendar basis to comply with the accounting practice of its new parent, Hawker Siddeley.

The bidder also expects to pay a total gross dividend of 2.313p per share for the nine months, which is an increase of around 20 per cent on an annualised basis over the earlier annual gross payment.

In income terms, Comben believes its bid for the house building group comprises a 42 per cent improvement if the cash element is invested in medium gilts.

Offering five of its own shares and 162p in cash for every six shares in Orme, Comben calculates that its bid represents a 33 per cent rise in capital values prevailing on the day before Saint Piran acquired a 22 per cent stake in Orme.

Two further lies of 500,000 Orme shares acquired by Saint Piran were subsequently sold on the instruction of the Take-over Panel.

AN OFFER FROM M&G AMERICA

M&G AMERICAN & GENERAL FUND
The U.S. stock market is currently more than 140 points, as measured by the Dow Jones index, above its three-year low reached on February 28th 1978. M&G American share prices could decline again in the short term, but continue to offer substantial value, whether measured in terms of earnings, yield or assets, and this, therefore, seems to be a good time to take a stake in the world's dominant economy.

The M&G American & General Fund is designed to invest in a wide range of American securities, with maximum long-term growth as the main objective. Investment is partially through back-to-back loan facilities in order to reduce the effects of the dollar premium. The estimated gross dividend is 15.55p at the buying price of 58p 4d on 9th August 1978.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money that you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Prices and yields appear in the FT, daily. An initial charge of 3 1/2% is included in the price, an annual charge of 1% plus VAT is deducted from the Fund's gross income. Distributions for income units are made on 23rd March and 23rd September net of basic rate tax and are reinvested for Accumulation units to increase the value of the units. The net distribution date for new investors will be 23rd March 1979. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchases or sales will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. 11% commission is payable to accredited agents. Trustee: Lloyds Bank Limited. The Fund is a wide-range security and is authorised by the Secretary of State for the United Kingdom.

M&G is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

TWO WAYS TO INVEST

As an alternative, or in addition to investing a capital sum, you can start a Regular Investment Plan with M&G American & General Fund as little as £12 a month. 81% to 94% (depending on your starting age) is invested, except in the first two years when an additional 20 per cent is retained to meet selling-up expenses.

On a £20 Plan, tax relief at present rates can bring down your net monthly cost to only £16.70, in most cases appreciably less than the monthly purchase of units on your behalf by M&G Trust (Securities) Ltd. Regular investment of this type means that the inevitable fluctuations in the price of units gives you a positive antinflationary advantage through Pound Cost Averaging, because your premium is used to buy more units when the price is low and fewer when it is high. You also get tax relief on the contributions over the period of at least 180 times your monthly payment, if your age at entry is 54 or under; an element of life cover is also provided for higher ages, up to 75. You are normally entitled to claim tax relief at current rates of £16.50 for each £100 paid.

If you cash in or stop your payments during the first four years there is a penalty, and the tax authorities require you to make a deduction, so you should not consider the Plan for less than five years. M&G is a member of the Life Offices' Association. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

THE M&G GROUP

ATgook and the reat it poses

In his final article on VAT John Price gives warning of the dangers presented by a complicated tax which is set out in often incomprehensible language.

The Zero Rate Schedule, the Exemption Schedule and the Higher Rate Schedule respectively.

Some supplies of goods and services may fall within more than one schedule. If so, the zero rate takes precedence over both exemption and the higher rate. For example, the sale of the freehold of a new house by a builder is both zero-rated under Group 8, item 1 of the Zero Rate Schedule and exempt under Group 1 of the Exemption Schedule. It is zero-rated.

Understand? We all suffer from badly written official paperwork, but only in VAT are the results of not understanding it so immediate, irreversible and damaging.

Business people, large and small, are losing money as a result. Worse still, their time and energies are being diverted into fighting battles with Customs when they should be creating wealth for the nation. And any problem which undermines business is everyone's problem.

Earlier this year I wrote twice to the chairman of the Board of Customs & Excise, detailing my criticisms of the way in which the system is working, supporting my submissions with detailed comments, including passages from the Customs' own notices, and so on.

My comments include the suggestion that more revenue is being lost through ignorance of the law than through fraud and that that ignorance is on the part of both traders and Customs officials. The law itself is a muddle of Finance Acts, statutory instruments and

bits of certain Customs notices. Customs explanatory literature, including the notices, is poorly designed, badly written, misleading and incomplete.

Fifteen statutory instruments were published at the end of last year, a mere few weeks before they came into operation. Neither Parliament, nor the VAT specialist such as myself, let alone the business world, had a fair chance to understand them.

Had a commercial organization behaved like this, it would most certainly have run foul of unfair trading regulations.

The most serious criticism of all is that the VAT Notices, which are supposed to clarify the law, are so appallingly written and designed, that the layman does not have a fair chance to understand the law, as it applies to him.

In response to my call for outside experts to be brought in to put this right, the Customs replied to me that they were now submitting drafts to the Consultative Committee of Accounting Bodies. This committee has some difficulty in writing technical accounting standards which accountants can comprehend; it knows no more about writing in plain English for the ordinary man than do the Customs.

I am afraid that the Commissioners of Customs and Excise live in an ivory tower at Kings Beam House. The VATocracy is growing itself such a jungle of regulations and associated mumbo-jumbo that, before very long, it will acquire a momentum which no one can stop.

Perhaps it is not too late to bring some sense into the system; we need a simple operation which collects tax efficiently but without worrying about the finer points which cause so much confusion and which require so many officials to supervise them.

I believe that the Customs and Excise are systematically undermining our economic future. Many of them are charming people, they simply do not understand what they are doing. Only protests from you will bring this home to them.

Rebuilding your home may reveal a gap

generally appreciated—between costs in different parts of the country.

Apart from that, many insurers have tried to keep sure insured moving upwards by linking them to an index. But there has not been a really suitable index. Because there has been nothing better, most insurers have used the Building Housing Cost Index, compiled by the Building Cost Information Service of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

One of its drawbacks is that it does not apply to repairs or one-off rebuilding jobs. It applies to the building from scratch of 32 houses on a notional site of 1.054 hectares. Furthermore, the index is really prepared for the building trade and so it is connected with actual costs, and does not include any profit element.

Costs to a builder and the prices which he charges do not always increase at the same pace—although, to be fair, the increases are probably closer in the case of repairs and the like than where large building contracts are concerned.

Insurers are aware of the fact that they could have given

more help and guidance to their policyholders. As a result, the British Insurance Association has been employing the Building Cost Information Service to undertake work for it.

Initially, it is expected that the service will provide the insurance industry with detailed information on rebuilding costs for different types of property in different areas. Quite rightly, much of this information will be made available to policyholders so as to give practical help in establishing correct values for insurance.

As it is, there is still much uncertainty. The magazine *Which?* arranged for 20 members of the Consumers' Association to have their houses valued for insurance purposes. While one member had slightly more cover than the value he needed, the other 19 were under-insured. The amounts for which they were under-insured ranged from £1,800 to £23,500. The houses chosen were not particularly expensive.

In many cases, if there is under-insurance the insurers have the right to void the policy—although it is unlikely that they would take such drastic action.

Some policies contain the "average clause"—although not generally when the insurance arrangements have been made by a building society. Its effect is that, in the event of under-insurance, any claim (however small it may be) will be scaled down in the same proportion as the under-insurance.

John Drummond

Record year for housebuyers

Wherever the credit lies—and it could equally lie with the common sense of the public—it certainly seems that house prices have not taken off. They have risen faster, but in the 12 months to May the rise was in line with the increase in earnings.

New house prices, however, have gone up rather more rapidly, although there is a suspicion that the margin between new and second-hand homes is now as wide as it is likely to become.

Belhaven Brewery repays loan

Belhaven Brewery Group has repaid a £250,000 10-year loan from Allied Breweries, in its entirety after only one year. The effect of the repayment is to terminate the option rights

which Allied have had until now of about 5 per cent of the Belhaven equity.

The decision to make full repayment arises solely as a result of the strong cash position in which Belhaven now finds itself, and in no way affects the existing close trading relationships between the two companies", the board says. The sole remaining major shareholder in Belhaven is now J. Lyons, which holds 14 per cent of the ordinary shares.

Renown sees little growth

Little profit growth is forecast at Renown Inc, the Japanese clothing distributors.

In the first half of this year, "ordinary profit" rose from 3,080m yen to 3,210m yen (about £9m) on net sales up from 71,079m yen to 74,749m yen (£205m). Net profit edged forward from 1,410m to 1,510m yen, but, per share, slipped from 14 to 13.90 yen. The board predicts net sales of 160,000m yen for the full year, against 151,667m yen, ordinary profit of 8,000m yen, compared with 7,902m yen, and net profits of 3,550m yen (3,515p yen) and an unchanged dividend of 10 yen per share.

Chaddeley retains open-company status

To maintain the open-company status of Chaddeley Investments, the holdings of Mr Stuart Lipton and Mr Geoffrey Wilson have been reduced. The two men recently bought the group through a reverse takeover, as a vehicle for their expanding property development group, Greycoat Estates Investments.

Rowe Pimman, Hurst-Brown & Co., 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, and associates, 289,730 Chaddeley shares at 44p. It later bought for associates 16,730 at the same price.

The shares continued to climb—reaching 48p yesterday—on the day and 7p since Tuesday's re-quotations.

Half-time upsurge at Milford Docks

After only six months of the year, Milford Docks has produced a pre-tax profit of £131,000—nearly as good as the previous full year's record of £158,000 made in 1976. The upsurge was foreshadowed here last month.

Pre-tax profit compares with £2,000 a year ago and a loss of £15,000 for the whole of 1977. The loss reflected the cost of handling burgeoning cargo traffic and fishing activities, but was a disproportionate cost.

However, expenditure incurred last year has helped the group this time round. First-half turnover more than doubled to £1.2m.

Gaskell (Bacup)

Pre-tax profit of Gaskell (Bacup) is up by 14 per cent to £47,000 for the first half-year to June 30, 1978, compared with the same period last year. The carpet underlay manufacturer's turnover increased by £726,000 to £4.8m. The share price went up 9p to 125p following announcement of the results. An interim dividend of 4p against 3.7p gross was declared.

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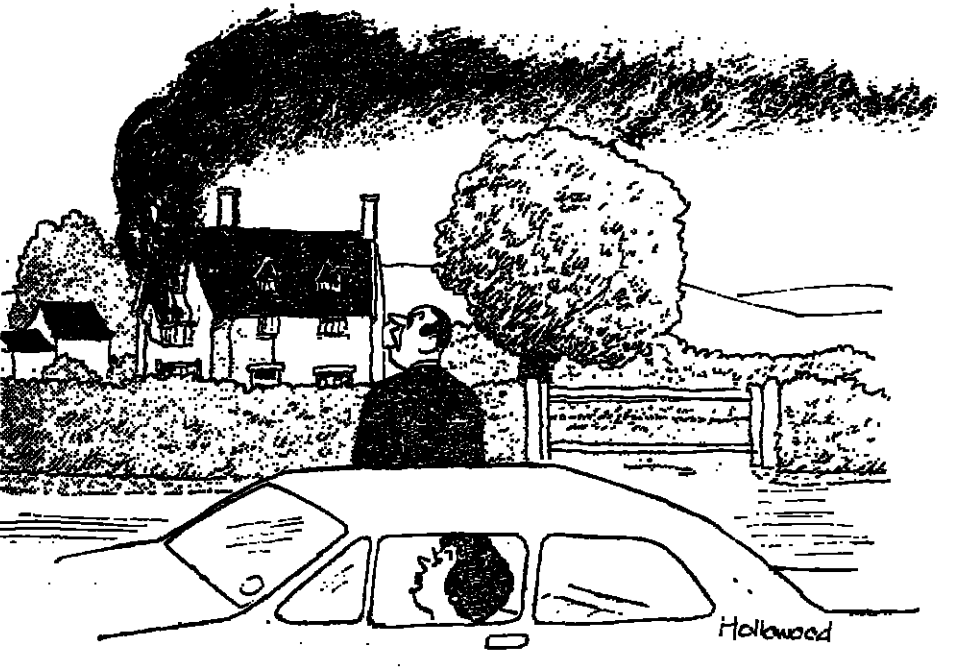
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Aug 7. Dealings End, Aug 18. § Contango Day, Aug 21. Settlement Day, Aug 30
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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[illegible]

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

I criticized the poor value of so many leading brand cassettes and was sent a selection with the Chyme label to try out. They cover popular classical music, like Strauss (*Rendezvous in Vienna*), Verdi (*Traviata* highlights), Tchaikovsky (*Pathétique* and violin concerto), Beethoven (*The Emperor*), Mozart (*Symphony No 36 in C Major*, the *Linz* and *No 41 in C Major*, the *Jupiter*), Haydn (*London* and *Surprise* symphonies) and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. The cassettes are numbered between CHC 2001 and 2008.

Now I am no Bernard Levin but, as they say, I know what I like and I think these are really much better than most

of the budget-priced cassettes on sale today. The sound quality is good, the rendering much better than the usual and the value excellent at a recommended retail price of 99p each. If you do not see them at your local cassette shop, ask the distributor, Charmdale Record Distributors, 182 Acton Lane, Harlesden, London NW10 (01-961 3133/2866).

I have also been hearing some more talking and story cassettes from the Anvil Music list. They include stories of King Arthur, Bible stories, tales of Arabia, Persia, Turkey and Alexander the Great and some fairy tales. Poems include "Sir Smasham Uppe and other poems", a work with which I am unfamiliar. Legends

of Ireland and Legends of the Chams (the latter with some Gaelic songs) will have Wales clamouring to be heard. Now in the pipeline are *Odysseus*, *Puss in Boots* and *St Brendan's Voyage* which sound like new cassette stories to me. Not cheap but well produced at £3.15 each or as in the case of the five stories of King Arthur, £15.25 the set of five. The price includes postage in Britain and schools are taking of these enthusiastically so they may well keep child guests quiet as the little host or hostess switches on the favourite story. Details from Anvil Music, c/o Discourses Limited, 36 Crescent Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 2LZ.

Waterball is a kind of lightweight plastic barrel for sailors, campers, caravanners and possibly even gardeners. It holds more than 13 gallons which should see even an average family through most days when they are camped or moored far from the nearest rampside. When bunged, it keeps the contents safe from fumes, dust and weather, and it travels on a wheeled truck, rather like a smaller, lightweight porter's trolley. Easy to wash and clean out, it could be used for other purposes too,

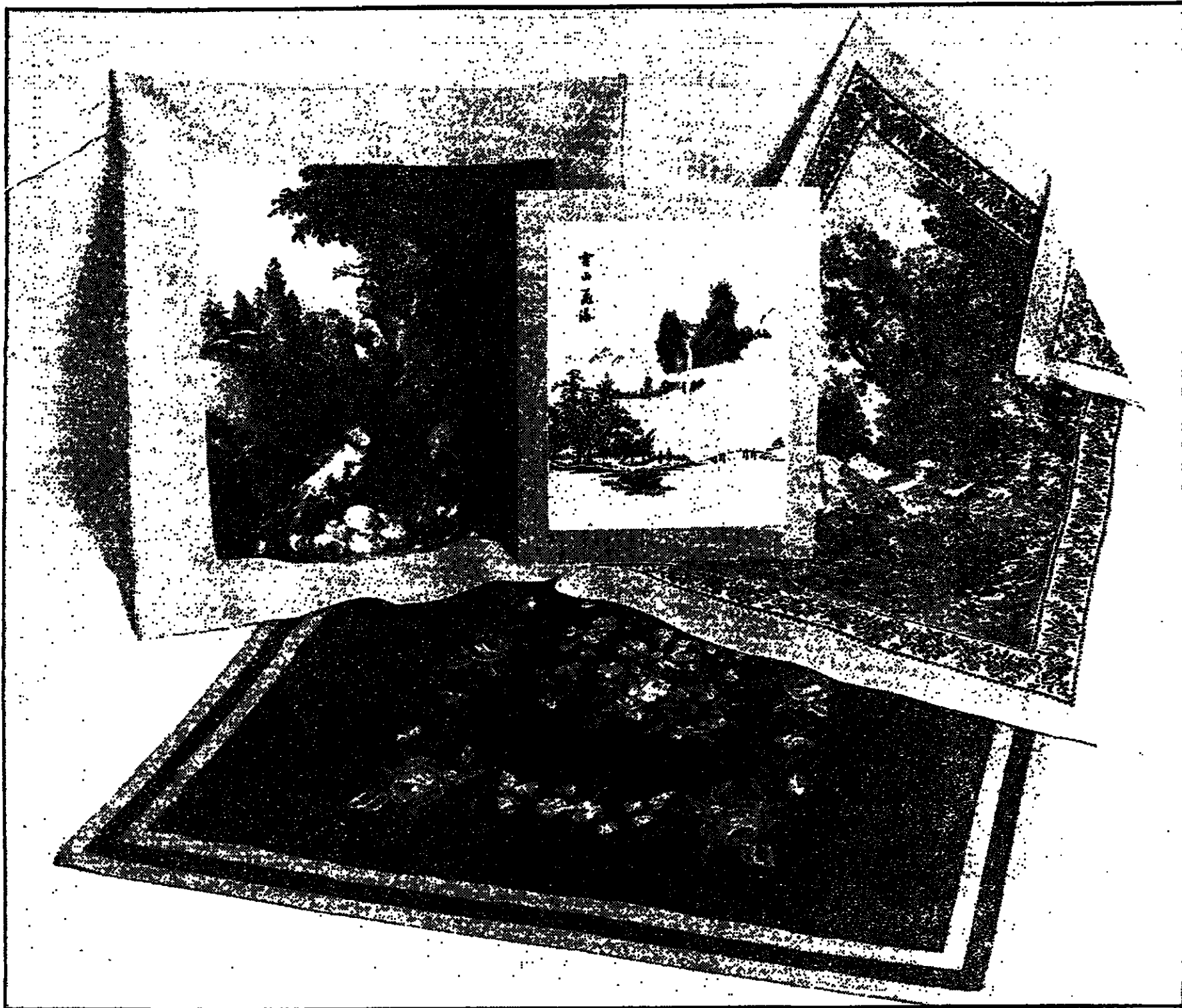
such as clearing rubbish when you leave the site. And it dismantles and folds up with the barrel's three sections fitting inside each other and the trolley also folded. It should go into most car boots and be easily packed away with the rest of the camping gear. Of green, high-density Polythene, it stands up to heat and cold and it costs £17.99 at camping and caravan accessory shops around Britain. The distributor is H. Burden, Pychley Lodge Road Industrial Estate, Kettering, Northants NN15 6BR. Leaflets available.

Ringo or Robin have left their picturesque wharf overlooking the Thames to move up to 14 Rathbone Place, London, W1, close to Oxford Street (01-580 8174). The shop is rather unusual, with domed and coloured glass in the ceiling and a black room downstairs, at present destined for all that is outré and expensive in TV and audio equipment.

What I loved were the Aubusson tapestries. Not antique Aubusson but modern ones made there by the old methods though with richer or more subtle colourings. These hand-worked wool tapestries cost a small fortune but have already begun to appreciate fast, as does almost any hand-crafted piece that is really first-class. There

are some Milton Spence designs (the son of architect Basil Spence) at £2,500 or £3,000 and a wonderful £6,000.

Another artist translated to wall is Sonia Delaunay whose work is Bassarelli, perhaps the most coming them all, and certainly the largest run as high as £12,000. No guarantee given as to whose work might be at any given time, every tapestry one-off. The leaning plant table, one illustrated here, is about but nothing at ROR costs a mint. There is of titanium boxes and plastic compasses with titanium at anything £20 and upwards. Lighting, too, is in this range very attractively.



It is possible to have tapestry wall hangings without paying Aubusson prices. Look at the tapestries embroidered in China at Allans of Duke Street, the fabrics shop which delights in the exotic and rare as well as quality materials. Mr Allan explores the orient for treasures to sell along with European and American fabrics and, last year, he discovered some hand-worked wool tapestry, mostly done in gros point, although faces are almost always in petit point.

They can be hung as they are but often look better stretched or framed and they come in all sizes, starting with really small ones at between £4.50 and £12.50. Some tropical birds on a tapestry measuring 30 by 25 inches would be £58. Fragonard's *Lady on a Swing* is £80 (about 32 by 47 inches). A large wall-hanging at about 50 by 77 inches could be as much as £450 but there are so many subjects that there ought to

be something for all who do not seek essentially modern work.

Paintings on silk are still very much in demand, ranging from about £3.50 without mounts or frames and many need both. Easy to travel as all the fabric pictures and tapestries can be rolled up unless you want Allans to arrange framing, in which they now have much experience and know whom to trust. Allans is at 56 Duke Street, London, W.1. (01-629 3781).



Garden torches or flares, made of impregnated fabric wrapped around a cane, are decorative and useful to keep insects at bay as much as to light and decorate. Heads now have them shaped to look like tulips, with paper leaves attached to the "stalks". A bit more expensive than the plain ones at £1.80 each, they are scented and give four hours' burning time. In light or dark green and in brown. All branches, if you happen to be among the lucky few who get the kind of weather for garden evenings.

Herald shops, where the making-up is free on all curtain materials bought there, is adding the service of free bedcovers to match (buy the material and they make it into a bedcover). They are also offering matched or coordinating roller blinds, lampshades, wallpapers, and cushions. Cushions (20 inches square) are £3.95 and hanging or bedside lampshades in Victorian or Tiffany styles are £5.95. There are 19 Herald branches along or near the route of the M4 but please do not drive along the motorway looking for shops bordering it. Ring up Herald's head office at Tariff Road, London, N17 (01-801 6161) for the nearest address.

Early this year, Taunton Vale's pottery division formally became Royal Winton Pottery. The name had belonged to the company all along and has been identified with many of the products since the turn of the century so the change is welcomed by the trade and does much to reduce consumers' confusion because Taunton Vale is associated so strongly with their exclusive coordinated kitchen designs and patterns for anything from chopping boards to table mats.

Royal Winton has come up with a winning range, the Antoinette. It is really charming, designed for bedroom and bathroom, but pretty enough to make one rethink the bedroom as a boudoir. All of fine earthenware with scrolled rims and scalloped feet, it has plenty of Parisian, olde-worlde beauty. The items include a pitcher and bowl of the kind once elegant on washstands but rather smaller than the traditional Victorian sizes.

Shoppers are buying them to use as vases or jugs and as fruit or salad bowls. An open soap dish is a miniature of the bowl and also finds its way to dining tables for sauces, mayonnaise, side dishes, etc. The candlestick romanticizes dinner as much as the boudoir, and the shiny pointed slipper holds a flower. There are also a lidded powder bowl and a loving cup which could hold flowers, soaps, secret messages or a small pot plant. There are two patterns—Indian tree as in the photograph or a delicate rose pattern. Prices are from around £3.30 or £3.70 for soap

dish or candlestick up to £9.45 for pitcher or £14.75 for the large bowl.

In other shapes and patterns, Royal Winton are making some lovely cachepots, planters, jardinières and vases. There is Canton, a hexagonal shape decorated with fern, lily or blossom on translucent white backgrounds. A friend with a genius for giving gave me one with a plant in it and it is always being admired. Prices start at around £2.10 for plain, smaller items up to £7.30 for the most expensive decorated jardinière.

The kitchenware is already familiar to shoppers who seem to love the large, white Provencal soup tureen with matching ladle and small soup bowls. The plump white china chicken stores eggs for many a home and the cheese bell and little white ramekins are also popular. Top with shoppers, however, is the flan dish with fluted sides in plain white, fern or black-and-white, decorated with recipes for Quiche Lorraine or Tracole Tart. Two new patterns have been added with the appropriate recipes for lemon meringue pie or strawberry marshmallow pie, rather mouth-wateringly illustrated. The 7in size is about £2.35 and the 9in is £3.70. Well stocked in china and glass shops or departments, but seek help from Royal Winton Pottery, Norfolk Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4PA, Staffs. A new recipe dish is on the way for farmhouse herb pie and it should be in most shops soon.



It took a man to dream up this good idea for a kitchen aid but men so often do think of such things. Chain a man to a chore and he looks round for ways of lightening it while too many women tend, traditionally, to take toll for granted.

Christopher Lambert was inveigled into preparing a casserole when he found himself irritated by the waste and crummings that collected around the edges of his chopping board. If that was his reaction to one casserole, imagine what it might have been to the preparation of fruit and vegetables from his country garden for freezing or preserving.

As it was, he designed a hanging-bag attachment for the edge of the board and kitchen table so that all waste could be slid into the bag ready for compost, rubbish or whatever. So many friends envied the Chop-and-Clear and ordered for themselves that he began to see it as a commercial proposition.

When harvest glut and freezing or bottling time comes along, Lambert finds his wife reversing the roles of his unit and pushing prepared food into the clean bag, leaving waste and trimmings behind for a secondary clean-up. The Chop-and-Clear package

consists of 100 bags (12in by 10in), closures and retaining bags for the bags, and the holding unit itself which has a kind of metal platform extension to anchor beneath the working board. In fact, provided that the bag is pushed right up against the edge of board and table, it stays in place even if the board is taken up or moved. The one proviso is that you must have a minimum thickness of 2in, which all the best chopping boards have. The reason is that the board's edge must stand proud above the bag unit for clean sweeps.

The package costs £2.90 plus 60p for postage and packing and they can be bought only from Design Lambert, 4/5 St Peter's Row, Bethesda, Kent. Queries to Bethesda 419 but remember that this is small husband and wife business and there may not be a reply. Specify whether you want clear or opaque white bags. The metal parts are all plasticized in white, blue, red and orange but, since they really do not show while in position for use, there seems to me to be little point in colouring and I would suggest giving white as your second choice (unless it is the first) in case any of the colours run out. Replacement bags are £1 plus 20p per 100, including ins.

Jenny Webb, whose sensible book on microwave cooking was so clear and detailed, has now written a recipe book. Mostly, I think recipes suggest rather than give blueprints for exact copying but microwave cooking is new enough to many to need careful and exact times and quantities. Each recipe gives the time on her own 600-watt output oven and leaves a space for oven-owners to substitute their own times (the outputs do vary).

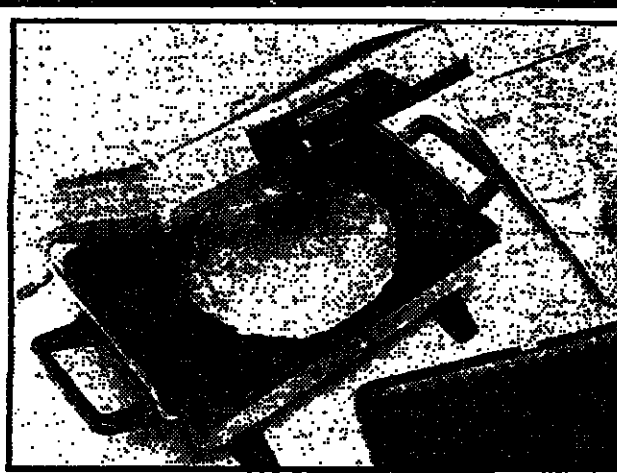
Jenny has been testing these ovens, among other things, for years and is a qualified home economist. She is also a personal enthusiast for microwave and likes to entertain at home. She outlines running costs along with other data and instructions and takes such a sensible attitude, not expecting microwave ovens to be other than an extremely useful addition to traditional cooking equipment.

Technical information up 45 of the book's pages being dedicated to it. Furthermore, it is a book, published by Fontana, in conjunction with New English Library, EC1N 2JR. It is well illustrated here, is about but nothing at ROR costs a mint. There is of titanium boxes and plastic compasses with titanium at anything £20 and upwards. Lighting, too, is in this range very attractively.

Rightly or wrongly, I never say much point in table-top electric grills until I heard that the Harrington "Britannia" has removable grill plates for washing up. That makes real sense because the grill can be used for sweet or savoury and even the most non-stick plates need some dunking to get really clean.

The Britannia's plates are non-stick but juices naturally get down between the spines and it is so easy to clip out and clip back the plates. That, however, is not the only plus; the other being that, beneath the bottom grill plate, there is a fat riddle on which you can do drop scones and pancakes. As a Scot, I must approve a griddle and I do. But there is more. With the Britannia is a shallow oven dish (extras are obtainable) to lie on the base heat and to convert the grill unit into a small table-top oven. The extra width required for use as an oven is achieved merely by pulling up the top plate unit and letting a safety hinge lock itself on to the back of the lower plate—it is easy, but does need to be seen to be understood.

The handles never get hot, allow space for knuckles but though I have found it to stay pretty cool underneath, I would not recommend standing it directly on polished surfaces. Apart from that, it is completely portable, operating off any power socket. It has an indicator light, automatic thermostat to avoid burnt offerings and the advantage that grilling this way, without any fat, must be good for health. Undoubtedly, the food are cooked simultaneously. Interestingly, this portable cooker could be slotted into



best to allow time for the grill literally a few moments to reach its heat before putting the food in, but like the fact that top and bottom are cooked at one and the same time.

The little recipe book that comes with the Britannia is really good, very practical and proves its versatility. It was compiled by a man whose wife is disabled. He prepares a full meal before leaving for the office and she merely switches on and then helps herself from the grill or oven when it is ready, leaving nothing but the plates and her own crockery and cutlery to clear in the evening. One other point—the Britannia uses only 14 kilowatts instead of the more usual three kilowatts of traditional cookers and does the same job in a shorter time because both sides of the food are cooked simultaneously. Interestingly, this portable cooker could be slotted into

none of the BEAB approval board's existing ones being neither a simple oven or hob unit so a new category is being set to allow them to have the try-and-performance tag, chrome-finished or in a melon shades, takes Py Pyroli dishes and you even heat up milk or coffee base plate. It costs £35 for what is a pretty plate little cooler.

Made by Harrington engineering, it is one of comparative rarities, a leader. Harrington moved engineering training (after inventing the types) into electric about five years ago, the such things as the Brit which is widely stocked electricity board show and leading shops and The maker's address is Harrington Road, London 2ED (01-720 7301). The about 15in by 12in.

